

# MISSOURI SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS COALITION

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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MEMBERS  
**FROM:** MISSOURI SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS COALITION  
**SUBJECT:** **SB 493: REASONS FOR OPPOSITION**  
**DATE:** MARCH 14, 2014

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- **SB 493 does nothing to address the challenges being faced in school districts with high poverty and instead takes students out of their community schools and destroys already struggling communities.** As the bill moves to the House of Representatives, more effort needs to be focused on support and intervention from the state. SAC believes that [HB 2037](#), sponsored by Rep. Jeanie Lauer (R – Blue Springs) provides the framework for this support and intervention. HB 2037 has 73 co-sponsors.
- **SB 493 promotes a system that "hides" students with difficulty learning in the state's accreditation system or in unaccountable private schools** by allowing private schools to cherry pick students or by transferring students out of their communities to affluent schools or districts.
- **SB 493 creates three starkly different accreditation systems for schools in Missouri.** Charter schools would be accredited based solely upon a system created by their own sponsor. In addition to cherry-picking the best students, private schools would be accredited by an entity known as the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation. Meanwhile, public schools would continue to be accredited utilizing MSIP5.
- SB 493 penalizes school districts that seek to focus resources on alternative schools, juvenile centers, or other programs dedicated to at-risk students by basing a district's accreditation on the number of buildings that are either "Accredited" or "Unaccredited".
- Districts will also incur significant costs and administrative headaches similar to those that existed with parental notification under No Child Left Behind. SB 493 requires districts to report to parents any time a building or district becomes "Provisional" or "Unaccredited".
- **SB 493 creates a system of "high stakes" testing** with the requirement that "Provisional" and "Unaccredited" districts retain any student in 5th or 8th grade if the student fails to score proficient or advanced on MAP tests. This provision ensures that once a district is forced to retain students in specific grade levels that are utilized to determine a district's APR score, the district will never recover.
- **SB 493 requires tax payers in school districts to subsidize a student to attend another district** if the student lives more than seventeen miles away from his or her school and within seven miles of a school in another district. Governor Nixon vetoed this provision two years ago because of its open enrollment nature. As transportation funding has been significantly cut by the state in recent years, local taxpayers should not be asked to pick up the tab in the manner laid out in SB 493.

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Missouri Association of School Administrators • Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals  
Missouri Association Secondary School Principals • Missouri Association of School Business Officials  
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education • Missouri Association of Rural Education  
Missouri United School Insurance Council • Missouri State High School Activities Association  
Missouri K-8 Association



- **The state will be on the hook to fund a number of provisions of SB 493 that will cost millions while the foundation formula is currently underfunded by more than \$600 million in the current fiscal year.**

With the passage of SB 493, the state would be expected to pay for the following..

- When districts are forced to retain students, it will mean that those students will continue to be counted in the districts weighted average daily attendance for an additional year.
- SB 493 sets up a "Transfer Fund" that will pay at least 10% of the tuition for students to transfer from one district to another if the district that the student chooses to attend has a higher tuition rate than the district the student resides.
- SB 493 allows for school districts to extend class time beyond current restrictions for any school building that is "Provisional" and "Unaccredited" and more than 75% of the student body is eligible for free and reduced lunch. A fund is created for the state to reimburse districts that choose to do this.
- SB 493 requires districts to offer free tutoring services to students when the district becomes "Provisional" or "Unaccredited" that would be paid for out of a state fund. Currently this fund is limited to donations, but would become a place that many legislators will attempt to direct state money through the budget process.
- SB 493 also creates funds to pay for Regional Education Authorities that will function as a clearinghouse and oversee the transfer process.