

## CCS SCS HCS HB 297 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

This bill changes the laws regarding elementary and secondary education.

### REPORT CARDS

Currently, school districts are required to produce an annual accountability report card for each school building, distribute copies to the households with students, and make copies available to other members of the public upon request. This bill transfers the responsibility for producing the report card to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, specifying that there will be report cards for each district, each public school building in a district, and each charter school. The report card will be designed to satisfy federal and state statistical disclosure requirements about academic achievement, finances, staff, and other indicators. Districts must provide the report card information by December 1, or as soon as it is ready, and give preference to distribution methods that will include the information with other important information, such as student report cards.

### TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

Currently, the definition of "teacher" for the purposes of tenure includes certified teachers who teach at the pre-kindergarten level. The bill clarifies that these teachers must be teaching in pre-kindergarten programs for which no fees are charged. The St. Louis City school superintendent's supervision of the district schools is subject to policies established by the school board, rather than subject to the control of the board, and the permissible length of the superintendent's contract is raised. Currently, the hiring of a treasurer, a commissioner of school buildings, and a director of personnel is required. The bill makes the hiring of these positions permissive. The requirement that the district's teaching appointments and promotions be based on merit is extended to all employee appointments and promotions. The remaining references to principals are removed from the City of St. Louis tenure statute.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Currently, when a school district participates in the Career Ladder Program, it must match state funds on a sliding scale based on the assessed valuation per eligible pupil. The bill permits any district that opted out of the program between July 1, 2001, and July 1, 2005, to rejoin by July 1, 2006, at the same matching level it qualified for when it last participated in the program.