

HB 1272 -- Metropolitan School District Improvement Act

Sponsor: El-Amin

This bill establishes the Metropolitan School District Improvement Act regarding public schools in the City of St. Louis. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Authorizes a 50% tax credit to fund extended day care for any child from three years of age to kindergarten who qualifies for the reduced school lunch program. Individual donations are limited to \$50,000, and the program has a \$2 million limit.
- (2) Redraws the school district's election subdistricts;
- (3) Requires the district to begin a program to keep students with the same teacher for three years, commonly known as looping;
- (4) Increases teacher starting salaries and institutes peer performance review;
- (5) Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to determine the top 10% of improved schools and award a one-time bonus to certain school personnel. The schools will also receive \$2,000 for textbooks and other educational materials;
- (6) Requires student assessments every six weeks, with mandatory remedial work if a student is not proficient, and teacher assessment by examination every five years;
- (7) Establishes at least one alternative school;
- (8) Imposes a dress code requiring students to wear a school uniform; and
- (9) Establishes a longer school year of 204 days and 1,344 hours.

The provision of the bill regarding the tax credit will expire six years from the effective date.