



The Legislative Bulletin of the School Administrators Coalition

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Legislative Bulletin: End of Session Report

May 25, 2018

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Dear Allan,

The Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly came to an end on Friday, May 18, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. It was a turbulent session with many highs and lows. However, when the dust settled, the Foundation Formula was fully funded, \$102 million in total was appropriated for school transportation and none of the truly harmful education-related reforms passed. By all accounts, it was a successful session for public education. The success of this year was due in large part to the hard work of our members, their staffs, boards of education and communities. It was a total team effort.

Please note that our team is still attempting to sift through the numerous bills that were passed in the final week of session. While we feel confident that the below information represents the vast majority of bills that affect public education, it is possible that we may need to send another bulletin in the future regarding other pieces of legislation that passed which may affect schools. We apologize in advance if this comes to fruition, but an unprecedented number of bills passed this session (especially in the final days of session) and the time necessary to read through these bills is significant.

Below you will find two sections: the bills that passed and those that did not. While some bills passed that our organization is less than thrilled with, it is important to also look at the bills that did not pass. As stated at the end of the previous legislation session, in many instances, our sessions are judged not by what passed but by what did not.

Truly Agreed and Finally Passed Legislation

As a threshold matter, please understand that the information contained below is in summary form. These summaries are not meant to be a step-by-step analysis of each bill. We suggest that our members take time to review the bills discussed to better familiarize themselves with the provisions contained therein.

[HB 2002 - K-12 Budget](#)

As you have undoubtedly read, the legislature finalized the state's budget on May 9, 2018. When the process was completed, the legislature approved a budget that fully funded the Foundation Formula and provided an appropriation of \$102 million in total for school transportation. This alone is extraordinary.

The School Administrators Coalition (SAC) is incredibly grateful to all of the Missouri Legislature for making full funding a priority in an incredibly difficult budget year. However, we would like to give a special thanks to House budget leaders Scott Fitzpatrick (R - Shell Knob) and Justin Alferman (R - Hermann) for pushing their members towards full funding. We would also like to extend thanks to Senator Dan Brown (R - Rolla) for his work as well.

If you have not taken the time to thank your legislator(s) regarding full funding of the foundation formula, we urge you to do so. We may not agree with our legislators on every topic; however, we all agree that full funding is a priority and necessary for our state's educational success. **Please heed our advice and contact your legislator to say thank you.**

HB 1355 - Driver's Training Modifications

[House Bill 1355](#), filed by Representative Don Phillips (R - Kimberling City), originally pertained to natural disaster preparedness; however, the bill quickly became an omnibus crime bill.

One of the provisions contained in the bill pertains to school districts. That provision centers on driver training programs. Specifically, HB 1350 states that all driver training programs must include instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement. The instruction must also include information regarding the harms of driving while intoxicated or while in a drugged state.

Obviously, this bill does not pertain to every school district in Missouri. However, for districts that still operate a driver training program (driver's ed.), they must adhere to these provisions. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on this provision.

HB 1413 - Paycheck Deduction Modifications/Collective Bargaining

[House Bill 1413](#), filed by Representative Jared Taylor (R - Nixa), initially just pertained to modifications in payroll deductions for public labor organization dues. This bill has often been referred to as "Paycheck Protection." Paycheck Protection has been a topic of discussion in the Missouri legislature for a number of years. However, throughout the legislative process, the bill was amended to include detailed provisions regarding collective bargaining.

In its final version, the bill does the following:

First, with regard to the Paycheck Protection provisions, the bill applies to all public labor organizations (e.g., NEA, AFT, MSTA, etc.) and requires annual, written authorization for payroll deduction of member dues and annual, written authorization for member contributions of dues or fees for political action. Simply stated, before dues may be taken from an employee's paycheck, the employee must give written authorization to have said

dues deducted. To be clear, this only pertains to public labor organization dues. A public labor organization is defined as "any organization, agency, or public employee representation committee or plan, in which public employees participate and that exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with a public body or public bodies concerning collective bargaining, grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, or conditions of work."

Second, with regard to the collective bargaining provisions, the bill makes numerous modifications. It is important that you contact the district's legal counsel to discuss these modifications moving forward as this is a substantive change in the law. Those changes are as follows:

- 1) Supervisory public employees cannot be included in the same bargaining unit as the public employees they supervise and that same labor organization shall not represent both non-supervisory and supervisory public employees;
- 2) A labor organization (for bargaining representation purposes) may only be selected through an election before the State Board of Mediation as voluntary recognition by a public body is no longer permitted;
- 3) An election by secret ballot will be held after the Board of Mediation is presented with cards containing signatures of at least 30% of the employees in the bargaining unit;
- 4) More than 50% of all public employees within the bargaining unit must vote positively to certify the labor organization as the exclusive bargaining representative;
- 5) Labor organizations must recertify every three years;
- 6) Within eight weeks of a certification election, the labor organization shall meet and begin bargaining with representatives of the public body;
- 7) Bargaining for renewal agreements shall take place triennially, provided that those labor agreements must be subject to certain limitations. Such limitations include management reserving the right to hire, discipline and discharge employees, reserving the right to make and amend reasonable work rules, prohibiting all strikes and picketing, extending the duty of fair representation to all employees of the bargaining unit, prohibiting labor organization employees from accepting paid time by a public body for conducting labor organization business with certain exceptions, and providing for the modification of the agreement in the event of a budget shortfall; and
- 8) A public meeting must be had prior to the ratification of any collective bargaining agreement wherein the public shall have an opportunity to comment on the tentative agreement.

Again, these are substantive changes in the law. Please contact your district's legal counsel prior to engaging in collective bargaining negotiations so as to ensure that the district is complying with each of the new requirements.

HB 1415 - Workforce Development

[House Bill 1415](#), filed by Representative Jeanie Lauer (R - Blue Springs), originally

pertained to teacher externships. However, throughout session, the bill was modified to include other provisions regarding ACT WorkKeys, a Career Readiness Course Task Force and modifications to the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council. Other provisions contained within the bill do not pertain to public education.

So, what does the bill do?

First, the bill allows a teacher to count hours spent in a local business externship as contact hours of professional development. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of this provision when it was heard as a separate bill in Committee.

Second, the bill provides students the opportunity to choose between the ACT WorkKeys assessment or ACT (including ACT Plus Writing) assessment in any school year in which DESE directs a state-funded census administration of the ACT assessment, or in which a school district decides to fund the administration of the ACT assessment. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of this provision when it was heard as a separate bill in Committee.

Third, the bill establishes a "Career Readiness Course Task Force" to study the need of offering a middle school career readiness course. The Task Force will ultimately determine whether a course must be offered in 8th grade to students regarding future job prospects. The Task Force will take public testimony and we will provide our members with additional information regarding said Task Force in the future. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on this provision.

Lastly, the bill requires the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council to annually review, update, approve, and recommend a list of industry certifications, state-issued professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments. A school district may use the list as a resource in establishing programs of study that meet their regional workforce needs. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on this provision.

HB 1606 - Large Education Omnibus Bill

[House Bill 1606](#), filed by Representative Elaine Gannon (R - DeSoto), originally pertained to high school equivalency certificates. However, during floor debate in the Senate, the bill changed dramatically as a Senate Substitute (essentially a new bill) was introduced by the Senate bill handler, Senator Gary Romine (R – Farmington), which contained numerous other provisions from bills that had been heard throughout session by the Senate Education Committee. Most of the provisions added in the Senate Substitute were from bills that were considered noncontroversial by the education community. However, after the Senate Substitute was offered, additional bills were added to HB 1606 via amendments. Unfortunately, one of the amendments added was less than ideal and was controversial in nature.

Here is what is contained in HB 1606:

- Underlying Bill – As noted above, the original version of the bill pertained to the payment of high school equivalency certificates and requires, subject to appropriation, for DESE to subsidize the examination fee for first-time exam takers.
- Senate Bill 582, filed by Senator Gina Walsh (D – Bellefontaine Neighbors), was added

via the Senate Substitute. Senate Bill 582 provides that in the event a student's "personal information" is compromised due to an electronic data breach, the parent or legal guardian of the student must be notified. Notification of the breach shall also be sent to DESE and the State Auditor's Office. Personal information includes items such as: 1) social security numbers; 2) driver's license numbers; 3) credit card numbers; 4) financial account information; 5) medical information; and 6) health insurance information. The School Administrators Coalition had no position on the bill when it was heard in Committee.

- Provisions regarding virtual course access were added via the Senate Substitute. For additional information regarding these provisions, please see the information provided below regarding SB 603.
- Senate Bill 681, filed by Senator Jake Hummel (D – St. Louis), was added via the Senate Substitute. Senate Bill 681 requires a student to receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of his or her individualized education plan (IEP) unless the IEP team determines that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate for the child. The act modifies the definition of "student." The provisions related to Braille do not mandate any more than that already required under federal law. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of SB 681 when it was heard in Committee.
- Senate Bill 687, filed by Senator David Sater (R – Cassville), was added via the Senate Substitute. Senate Bill 687 allows school districts, by majority vote of the board, to allocate less than 1% but not less than .5% of professional development funds to school transportation when the district is appropriated less than 25% of the allowable costs of providing pupil transportation. A school district may appropriate money in such manner until the end of fiscal year 2024. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of SB 687 when it was heard in Committee. Senate Bill 687 was truly agreed and finally passed as a separate bill as well. However, for brevity's sake, SB 687 will not be listed as a standalone bill.
- Senate Bill 743, filed by Senator David Sater (R – Cassville) was added via the Senate Substitute. Current law requires the treasurer of a seven-director school district, when entering into a bond to the state, to do so with two or more sureties. This bill authorizes the treasurer to use one or more sureties.
- Pre-K ADA Fix: Additionally, language was added to HB 1606 that states if a pupil between the ages of 3 and 5 who is eligible for free and reduced price lunch attends an early childhood education program operated by and in a district or charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency and subsequently leaves such program, the district or charter school shall be allowed to fill the vacant enrollment spot with another eligible pupil without affecting the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of this provision when it was heard in Committee.
- House Bill 1348, filed by Representative Rusty Black (R – Chillicothe), was added via the Senate Substitute. House Bill 1348 specifies that DESE shall handle career and technical student organization funds as it deems necessary. This appears to be a technical change to the law and will not affect local student organization funds. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill when it was heard in Committee.
- House Bill 1370, filed by Representative Chrissy Sommer (R – St. Charles), was added

via the Senate Substitute which requires every school district to maintain an accountability portal for the public. By September 1, 2019 each public school district must develop, maintain, and make available all publicly available income, expenditure, and disbursement information for their current fiscal year. The data on the portal must be updated quarterly and remain available for at least 10 years. If the expenditure and revenue information is not provided on a school district's website, then there may be a link provided to the information which is stored on DESE's website. The School Administrators Coalition worked with the sponsor of the bill to ensure that more onerous provisions were not included in the bill. While the bill does create a mandate, we believe school districts will prefer this version to other more onerous bills that were filed this session.

- House Bill 1421, filed by Representative Donna Pfautsch (R – Harrisonville), was added via the Senate Substitute. House Bill 1421 requires any district with an approved gifted education program to have a process, approved by the district's board of education, that outlines the procedures and conditions under which parents or guardians may request a review of the decision that determined that their child did not qualify to receive services through the district's gifted education program. The bill also requires school districts to establish a policy that allows for subject or whole grade acceleration of any student who demonstrates advanced performance and emotional readiness for acceleration. The School Administrators Coalition did not take a position on this bill.

- House Bill 1455, filed by Representative Jeanie Lauer (R – Blue Springs), was added via the Senate Substitute. House Bill 1455 requires high schools to provide students with resources and information regarding industry-recognized certificates and credentials, in high-demand occupations and skills, typical salaries for trending occupations, obtaining financial assistance, and self-employment as well as resume creation, interviewing, networking, and finding job opportunities. The Department of Economic Development shall annually identify occupations that are experiencing a critical need or shortage of trained personnel and, together with DESE, shall provide said information to school districts for dissemination to students prior to November 1 each year. Please note that the bill does not require school districts to create a course to provide said information, the bill simply requires that schools share the information with students. How a district decides to share the information is up to the district. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of HB 1455 when the bill was heard in Committee.

- House Bill 1573, filed by Representative Lyle Rowland (R – Cedarcreek), was added via the Senate Substitute. House Bill 1573 allows a school district to use a calendar based on hours of attendance rather than hours and days of attendance, if the minimum number of hours is at least 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance. There are also provisions in the bill pertaining to inclement weather make-up hours. A school district may be exempt from the requirement to make up school lost or canceled due to inclement weather when the district has made up the required 36 hours and half the number of additional lost or canceled hours up to 48, resulting in no more than 60 total make-up hours. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of HB 1573 when it was heard in Committee.

- House Bill 1663, filed by Representative Kathy Swan (R – Cape Girardeau), was added via the Senate Substitute. House Bill 1663 permits a school board to establish an academic and career counseling program in cooperation with parents and the local community that is in the best interest of and meets the needs of students in the community. Schools may use the Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program as a resource. The bill requires DESE to develop, no later than January 1, 2019, a process for recognition of a school

district's academic and career counseling program. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of HB 1663 when it was heard in Committee.

- House Bill 1675, filed by Representative Craig Redmon (R – Canton), was added via the Senate Substitute. Currently, school bus drivers provide an annual statement from a medical examiner certifying that they can safely operate a school bus. This bill extends the time period to not longer than two years if a medical examiner approved by the Department of Transportation agrees to issue such certification instead of a one year certification statement. However, an amendment altered this provision to remove the portion regarding approval from a medical examiner. The bill now permits school bus drivers to provide a biennial statement. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill.

- House Bill 1676, filed by Representative Craig Redmon (R – Canton), was added via the Senate Substitute. House Bill 1676 requires school bus drivers who are 70 years of age or older to complete a CDL skills test and the driver's license exam on an annual basis in order to maintain their authority to drive buses. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill. The provisions contained within HB 1676 were also truly agreed and finally passed in SB 687.

- A provision was added by Senator Kiki Curls (D – Kansas City) via an amendment which pertains to the Kansas City School District regarding busing contracts. The amendment was supported by the local school district. This provision also passed in SB 687.

- A provision was added by Senator Dave Schatz (R – Sullivan) via an amendment regarding transportation hardship waivers. This amendment changes the process by which travel hardships are granted to public school students in two school districts. Those two school districts are the Maries County R-I School District and the Washington School District.

The amendment specifies that if the driving distance from the student's residence to his or her attendance center in the district of residence is 15 miles or more by the shortest route available and the driving distance to the new attendance center is at least 5 miles closer in actual driving distance to the pupil's residence, then the student automatically may transfer to the new attendance center in the other district. The board of education of the district in which the student resides must pay the tuition of the pupil reassigned, which shall not exceed the pro rata cost of instruction. If the tuition of the receiving district is greater than the tuition of the student's district of residence, the parent of the student shall pay the difference in tuition. The School Administrators Coalition opposed this amendment.

- A provision was added by Senator Jamilah Nasheed (D – St. Louis) via an amendment that states that if a school district offers instruction regarding human sexuality to their students, the curriculum must be altered to also teach students about sexual harassment, sexual violence and consent. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on this amendment.

- A provision was added by Senator Wayne Wallingford (R – Cape Girardeau) via an amendment which seeks to place an active classroom teacher on the State Board of Education. The teacher appointed will be a non-voting member. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on this amendment.

- A provision was added by Senator Jeanie Riddle (R – Fulton) via an amendment which states that if a board of education provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to parents of students in the district, then the board shall include information about influenza vaccinations as well. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on this amendment.

HB 1665 - Visiting Scholars Act

[House Bill 1665](#), filed by Representative Kathy Swan (R - Cape Girardeau), is known to educators as the "visiting scholars" bill. Versions of HB 1665 have been debated in the legislature for the past four years. While the bill received support from our organization as well as other education-related entities, it always failed to reach the governor's desk. That all changed in mid-March when the bill received unanimous approval from the Senate.

As you know from previous descriptions written of the bill, HB 1665 allows the State Board of Education to grant an initial visiting scholar certificate as a license to teach in public schools. The applicant must be employed in a content area in which the individual has an academic degree or professional experience. He or she may only teach classes for ninth grade or higher and the hiring school district must verify that the applicant will be employed as part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways for students. The certificate lasts for one year and the applicant can renew it a maximum of two times if certain requirements, as described within the bill, are met.

HB 1729 - Prevailing Wage

[House Bill 1729](#), filed by Representative Jeff Justus (R - Branson), amends Missouri's prevailing wage law. Currently, contractors and subcontractors working on public works projects are required to pay employees the prevailing wage for the particular locality in which the project is being completed. This bill instead requires that either the prevailing wage or public works contracting minimum wage be paid for workers on public works. The prevailing wage shall be paid for occupations in localities where at least 1,000 reportable work hours occur, but otherwise workers shall be paid the public works contracting minimum wage.

The prevailing wage shall be set using the weighted average of the wages for an occupational title, and the public works contracting minimum wage shall be 120% of the average hourly wage in a particular locality. Wage determination schedules are provided in the bill. Prevailing wage shall not be paid for public works where the estimated cost, or accepted bids, are \$75,000 or less. All public works projects estimated to cost, or with an accepted bid of \$10,000 or less for all occupational titles shall be exempt from competitive bidding requirements.

As you can see, the modifications to the state's prevailing wage law are complicated. However, it is believed that the modifications made will provide some relief to school districts, particularly smaller school districts in less populated counties.

HB 1744 - A+ Modification

[House Bill 1744](#), filed by Representative Jim Hansen (R - Frankford), among other things, modifies the A+ Schools Program by removing the requirement that the student's

attendance of a high school in the state be the three years immediately (consecutive) prior to graduation. The School Administrators Coalition testified in favor of the bill when it was heard in Committee.

HB 2129 - Organ Donation Presentations

[House Bill 2129](#), filed by Representative Steve Cookson (R - Poplar Bluff), requires public schools to allow any recognized organization that provides unbiased information on organ, eye, and tissue donation to make a 30-minute presentation to a school's governing body. The school's governing body must consider the information presented and decide whether to present the information to students and parents. Please note that there is no mandate placed on districts to distribute the information to students or staff. The bill further provides that should a school decide to provide the information to students that no student will be required to participate in organ donation instruction if the student has a sincere belief contrary to such instruction. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill.

HB 2540 - Individual Income Tax Reduction

[House Bill 2540](#), filed by Representative Elijah Haahr (R - Springfield), reduces the individual income tax rate. Currently, the law provides for a reduction in the top rate of income tax over a period of years from 6% to 5.5%, with each cut becoming effective if net general revenue collections meet a certain trigger. In addition to such reductions, beginning in the calendar year 2019, this bill provides that the top rate of tax shall be reduced by 0.4%. Thus, the floor is now 5.1% as opposed to 5.5%. As with SB 884 which is discussed below, the legislature attempted to balance this large reduction by inserting "revenue generators" in the bill so as to make the bill "general revenue neutral." The last fiscal note reflects that the bill may reduce the state's general revenue fund by approximately \$6 million once fully implemented. The School Administrators Coalition is concerned with the aforementioned tax cuts. The state has, for years, had difficulties in funding basic services for schools and other entities that rely upon general revenue. If the fiscal note on this bill is inaccurate, it could have devastating consequences for our state budget.

SB 603 - Virtual Course Access

[Senate Bill 603](#), filed by Senator Bob Onder (R - Lake St. Louis), pertains to virtual course access.

The issue of course access has been debated at length for several years in the General Assembly, but frequently got caught up in provisions dealing with open enrollment and statewide online charter schools. Recently, school districts across the state have started to invest in virtual education options as a way to address teacher shortages, providing additional course offerings (particularly for Advanced Placement or Dual Credit), and to deal with special situations for certain students.

Senate Bill 603 changes the name of MO-VIP to the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program. DESE will continue to oversee and monitor the course offerings and evaluate the providers participating in the program. The bill lays out a procedure whereby a school district will be required to develop a policy regarding how a student will enroll in a virtual course or full-time program and when a district may tell a student that they may

not enroll in a course or full-time program (the district must have good cause to deny a student). The process ensures that school personnel will be able to evaluate both the quality and appropriateness of a course or courses for individual students.

Once a student is enrolled in a virtual course(s), a school district shall pay, for any single, year-long course for a student, the market necessary costs or 14% of the state adequacy target as calculated at the end of the most recent school year. A school district shall pay no more than 7% of the state adequacy target as calculated at the end of the most recent school year for any single, semester-long course. School districts may negotiate with the course providers for a lower cost. Payment for a full-time virtual school student shall not exceed the state adequacy target, unless the student receives additional federal or state aid.

The bill also lays out an appeal process for students in the event a parent disagrees with the school's decision to not allow the student to enroll in a virtual course. The appeal goes first to the local school board and then to DESE. The School Administrators Coalition, along with every other education stakeholder, testified in support of SB 603 in Committee.

Because of an amendment offered by Senator Rob Schaff (R - St. Joseph) on the floor, the provisions of SB 603 will now become effective August 28, 2018. This poses potential issues with allowing school districts and DESE to adequately draft policies for implementation. Because of this tight timeline, districts should consult with their policy service as soon as practicable.

SB 743 - Large Education Omnibus Bill

[Senate Bill 743](#), filed by Senator David Sater (R - Cassville), originally pertained to surety bond requirements for school treasurers. The underlying bill simply reduces the number of sureties required under state law for school treasurers from two to one. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of SB 743 when it was heard in Committee. This provision also passed in HB 1606 which was discussed above.

While the bill was being heard in the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee earlier in session, it was amended to include a fix regarding early childhood funding. The additional language states that if a pupil between the ages of 3 and 5 who is eligible for free and reduced price lunch attends an early childhood education program operated by and in a district or charter school that has declared itself as a local educational agency and subsequently leaves such program, the district or charter school shall be allowed to fill the vacant enrollment spot with another eligible pupil without affecting the district's or charter school's calculation of average daily attendance. The School Administrators Coalition was in favor of this modification to the bill when it was heard in Committee. This provision also passed in HB 1606 which was discussed above.

When the bill moved to the House floor for debate, numerous amendments were added to the bill. After taking the bill to conference to "weed out" the bad amendments, here is what remained:

- House Bill 1358, filed by Representative Rusty Black (R - Chillicothe), was added via amendment. House Bill 1358 specifies that DESE shall handle career and technical student organization funds as it deems necessary. This appears to be a technical change to the law. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill when it was heard in Committee. This bill also passed in HB 1606.

- House Bill 1373, filed by Representative Becky Ruth (R - Festus), was added via amendment. House Bill 1373 seeks to place a teacher on the State Board of Education. The teacher appointed will be a non-voting member. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill when it was heard in Committee. This provision also passed in HB 1606.
- House Bill 2169, filed by Representative Craig Redmon (R - Canton), was added via amendment. House Bill 2169 requires the aggregate increase in the valuation of property assessed by the State Tax Commission for the current year over that of the previous year to be considered "new construction and improvements" for the purposes of setting a school district's tax rate each year. The School Administrators Coalition was supportive of this bill.
- House Bill 2411, filed by Representative Patricia Pike (R - Adrian), was added via amendment. House Bill 2411 requires DESE to develop a process for recognition of a school district's school library information and technology program before July 1, 2019. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill when it was heard in Committee.
- Senate Bill 681, filed by Senator Jake Hummel (D - St. Louis), was added via amendment. Senate Bill 681 requires a student to receive instruction in Braille reading and writing as part of his or her individualized education plan (IEP) unless the IEP team determines that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate for the child. The act modifies the definition of "student." The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of SB 681 as the bill imposes no additional requirements on school districts in how they meet the needs of their special needs students. Senate Bill 681 also passed in HB 1606.
- A provision was added via amendment by Representative Rebecca Roeber (R - Lee's Summit) which permits charter schools to give a preference for enrollment to high-risk students. Please note that this amendment does not expand charter schools in the state of Missouri. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the amendment. It was not filed as a standalone bill.
- House Bill 1420, filed by Representative Donna Pfautsch (R - Harrisonville), was added via amendment. House Bill 1420 extends the sunset for the early learning quality assurance report pilot program from August 28, 2016 until August 28, 2019. The School Administrators Coalition supported the bill when it was heard in Committee.
- A provision was added via amendment by Representative Kathy Swan (R - Cape Girardeau). The provision simply permits the Kansas City School District to contract with any municipality for the purpose of transporting school children (grades 9 and up). The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the amendment.
- House Bill 1573, filed by Representative Lyle Rowland (R - Cedar creek), was added via amendment. House Bill 1573 allows a school district to use a calendar based on hours of attendance rather than hours and days of attendance, if the minimum number of hours is at least 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance. There are also provisions in the bill pertaining to inclement weather make-up hours. A school district may be exempt from the requirement to make up school lost or canceled due to inclement weather when the district

has made up the required 36 hours and half the number of additional lost or canceled hours up to 48, resulting in no more than 60 total make-up hours. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of HB 1573 when it was heard in Committee. This bill also passed in HB 1606.

- House Bill 1421, filed by Representative Donna Pfautsch (R - Harrisonville), was added via amendment. House Bill 1421 requires any district with an approved gifted education program to have a process, approved by the district's board of education, that outlines the procedures and conditions under which parents or guardians may request a review of the decision that determined that their child did not qualify to receive services through the district's gifted education program. The bill also requires school districts to establish a policy that allows for subject or whole grade acceleration of any student who demonstrates advanced performance and emotional readiness for acceleration. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill when it was heard in Committee. This bill also passed in HB 1606.

- House Bill 1415, filed by Representative Jeanie Lauer (R - Blue Springs), was added via amendment. House Bill 1415 provides students the opportunity to choose between the ACT WorkKeys assessment or ACT (including ACT Plus Writing) assessment in any school year in which DESE directs a state-funded census administration of the ACT assessment, or in which a school district decides to fund the administration of the ACT assessment. This bill also allows a teacher to count hours spent in a local business externship as contact hours of professional development. The text of HB 1455 was also added in this amendment. HB 1455 requires high schools to provide students with resources and information regarding industry-recognized certificates and credentials, in-demand occupations and skills, typical salaries for trending occupations, obtaining financial assistance, and self-employment as well as resume creation, interviewing, networking, and finding job opportunities. The Department of Economic Development shall annually identify occupations that are experiencing a critical need or shortage of trained personnel and, together with DESE, shall provide said information to school districts for dissemination to students prior to November 1 each year. Please note that this provision does not require school districts to create a course to provide said information, the bill simply requires that schools share the information with students. How a district decides to share the information is up to the district. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of both HB 1415 and HB 1455 when they were heard in Committee.

- A provision was added via amendment by Representative Lyle Rowland (R - Cedarcreek) which states that DESE shall be prohibited from creating any report in which data from the district's regularly enrolled pupils is aggregated with data from children who attend a court-ordered group home or institution for neglected children. The School Administrators Coalition was supportive of the amendment.

SB 768 - Accelerated Depreciation of Tangible Personal Property for Telecom Companies

[Senate Bill 768](#), filed by Senator Denny Hoskins (R - Warrensburg), states that, beginning on January 1, 2019, telephone companies must make a one-time election of whether to have their tangible personal property assessed under the current method of assessment or under an accelerated depreciation schedule.

As you will recall, our organization has opposed versions of this bill for years. However, after numerous revisions and meetings regarding this bill, provisions were added which

seek to limit the loss of revenue for school districts. Indeed, if a school district that is at its maximum operating levy receives less tax revenue from a specific telephone company as a result of the telephone company selecting the alternate assessment method, the school district may by resolution impose a fee to be paid by the telephone company until such time as the school district receives voter approval to raise its operating levy. The fee shall be calculated via the process described in the bill. A school district's receipt of such fee shall not be used in determining the amount of state aid that a district receives under the school foundation formula, in determining the amount that may be collected under a property tax levy, or for any other purpose.

The State Tax Commission shall include information in its annual report on the difference in assessed value for any telephone company that is assessed under the provisions of this bill. The Commissioner of Education shall transmit such information to each school district.

SB 819 - Supporting and Strengthening Families Act

[Senate Bill 819](#), filed by Sen. Mike Cunningham (R - Marshfield), originally pertained to foster care. However, during the legislative process, amendments were added. One of the amendments centered on at-risk children. The amendment was SB 672, also known as the "Supporting and Strengthening Families Act."

In the amendment, a parent or legal guardian of a child may delegate to an attorney-in-fact, without compensation, any powers regarding the care and custody of a child for a period not to exceed one year. Such delegation does not change parental or legal rights established by a court order or deprive the parent or legal guardian of any rights regarding child custody, visitation, or support.

A parent who intentionally uses a power of attorney to permanently avoid legal responsibility for the care of the child is guilty of violating current law on transferring child custody without a court order. A child subject to the power of attorney shall not be considered placed in foster care and the parties shall not be subject to any licensing regulations for foster care or community care for children.

Community service programs for families in crisis must conduct a background check of an attorney-in-fact and any adult members of his or her household prior to the placement of the child if a community service program is utilized.

An attorney-in-fact must make arrangements to ensure that the child attends classes at an appropriate school based upon the residency requirements of the school, and the child's school shall be notified of the existence of the power of attorney and be provided a copy of the power of attorney. The delegation of care under the act shall not modify a child's eligibility for the benefits, such as free or reduced lunch, that the child is receiving at the time of the execution of the power of attorney.

Further, the school district where the child is to attend must be made aware of the power of attorney and its effective dates.

Finally, the amendment specifies the information to be included on a form delegating any powers regarding the care and custody of a child under this Act.

The provisions of this bill were passed last year by the legislature; however, the bill this language was amended to last session was vetoed by the governor (the veto had nothing to do with this language).

SB 884 - Corporate Income Tax Reduction

[Senate Bill 884](#), filed by Senator Andrew Koenig (R - Manchester), reduces the corporate income tax rate from 6.25% to 4.0%. This change makes Missouri's corporate income tax the second lowest in the nation. This is concerning. In a state that has failed to meet basic needs in recent years (i.e., underfunding school transportation, cuts to healthcare and higher education), lawmakers should be very concerned about possible additional cuts. To balance this large reduction in general revenue, legislators included "revenue generators" in the bill so as to make the bill as "general revenue neutral" as possible. Those generators primarily have to do with single factor apportionment for C-Corporations. The last fiscal note reflects that the bill may generate approximately \$10 million in general revenue or may be a hit to general revenue of approximately \$9 million. Other projections have noted that the fiscal implications may be as large as a \$30 million hit to general revenue.

SB 892 - PSRS Modification

[Senate Bill 892](#), filed by Senator Gina Walsh (D - Bellefontaine Neighbors), is a pensions omnibus bill that contains one provision related to PSRS. That provision allows any teacher retired from the PSRS system to be employed in a position covered under a PEERS covered position without stopping their retirement benefit. The retired teacher may earn up to 60% of the minimum teacher's salary ($\$25,000 \times .60 = \$15,000$) and shall not contribute to PEERS or earn creditable service. If such an employee is provided health insurance, said health insurance will be utilized in calculating the \$15,000 cap.

The employer's (school district's) contribution rate shall be paid by the hiring employer. If a person is employed in excess of the salary limitation set forth in the bill, the person shall not be eligible to receive their retirement allowance for any month the person is employed and such person shall contribute to PEERS if he or she is employed in an eligible position.

SB 894 - Computer Science and STEM Awareness

[Senate Bill 894](#), filed by Senator Doug Libla (R - Poplar Bluff), pertains to computer science instruction and STEM awareness.

As you know, computer science and STEM instruction were major topics of discussion this session. Over the summer, education stakeholders, including the School Administrators Coalition, were approached by entities seeking to expand computer science in the state. As a result of those conversations, SB 894 was filed. The bill provides as follows:

The first portion of the bill pertains to STEM awareness and requires, subject to appropriation, for DESE to create the "STEM Career Awareness Program." The program is designed to increase STEM career awareness among students in grades six through eight. The statewide program is designed to introduce students to a wide variety of STEM careers and technology through an online-based STEM curriculum. The program shall be funded by the "STEM Career Awareness Program Fund" and must be promoted beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Please note that this is not a mandate on school districts.

DESE is only required to promote the program and school districts may take advantage of the program if they choose.

The second portion of the bill pertains to computer science instruction. By July 1, 2019, DESE must develop a high school graduation policy that allows a student to fulfill one unit of academic credit with a district-approved computer science course for any math, science, or practical arts unit required for high school graduation. This means that a student will have the option to select a computer science course (if a district has an approved computer science course) for a math, science or practical arts course. (Please note that this is not a mandate as no school district will be required to offer a computer science course.). The graduation policy shall require that all students have either taken all courses that require end-of-course exams or are on track to take all courses that require end-of-course exams under MSIP in order to receive credit toward high school graduation.

If a school district has a computer science course, it will be required to communicate to students electing to use a computer science course for a mathematics unit that some institutions of higher education may require 4 units of math for college admission. The parent of each student who chooses to take a computer science course to fulfill a 4th unit of math shall sign and submit a document acknowledging that taking a computer science course to fulfill a 4th unit of math may have an adverse effect on college admission decisions.

The bill requires the State Board of Education and the Coordinating Board of Higher Education to cooperate in developing and implementing academic requirements for computer science courses offered in 9th-12th grade. DESE must also convene a workgroup to develop and recommend academic performance standards relating to computer science for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. DESE must develop written curriculum frameworks relating to computer science that may be used by school districts.

In addition, the State Board of Education must develop a procedure by which any licensed teacher who demonstrates sufficient content knowledge of computer science shall receive a special endorsement on his or her license signifying this specialized knowledge.

The bill also creates the "Computer Science Education Fund" for the purpose of providing teacher professional development programs relating to computer science.

Senate Bill 894 is a thoughtful approach to the expansion of computer science programs throughout the state. There are effectively no mandates in this bill as no district is required to provide a computer science course. The School Administrators Coalition supported SB 894 when it was heard in Committee.

SB 990 - Annexation to Community College Districts

[Senate Bill 990](#), filed by Senator Dan Hegeman (R - Cosby), modifies the process for how a school district might attach itself to a community college district.

Under current law, a school district may attach itself to a community college district in one of two ways. First, a local board of education can vote to submit the question to the school district's voters, or 2) signatures can be gathered in order to place the question on the ballot for voter approval. In moving to attach to the community college district, the school district is asking for its residents to agree to pay additional taxes that are levied by the

community college district.

This bill changes current law by adding a third option. The third option allows a community college to, by a majority vote of its own board of trustees, propose a plan to the voters of a school district to attach the school district to the community college district. As with the other two options, an election would then be had by the voters of the school district regarding said plan. The community college district is responsible for the costs associated with the election under this third option, whereas, under options one and two, the district foots the cost of the election.

This bill will allow for community colleges to potentially gain additional operating revenue and will potentially permit students of the local district that is seeking to attach to have reduced tuition to attend the community college at issue. (The reduced tuition issue will have to be discussed between the community college and the local school district beforehand, but this is a possible win-win for the district's students and the community college at issue). The bill will also save local school board members from being placed in the precarious position of asking their own residents to pay more in taxes despite the change having no effect on the school district itself or the school district's levy. The School Administrators Coalition took no position on the bill.

SB 1007 - Whistleblower Protections

[Senate Bill 1007](#), filed by Senator Mike Kehoe (R - Jefferson City), originally pertained to the state's merit system for state employees (employees hired by the state of Missouri). The basic intent of the bill was to make state workers at-will employees. For those not aware, the state has a detailed process for dismissing state employees. For contextual purposes, while not exactly the same, it would be akin to the Teacher Tenure Act (a series of requirements the employer must follow when terminating an employee.).

The initial version of the bill, as well as the Senate Committee Substitute, did not alter the law with regard to all public employees, meaning the bill only pertained to state employees. However, the bill was modified late in session (and passed on the second to last day of session) regarding the state's whistleblower protections. The modification was significant in that it broadened whistleblower protections to include all public employees (which includes public school employees). The bill further expanded the conduct for which an employee might gain whistleblower status.

Under current law, state employees are permitted to disclose information which relates to the violation of law, mismanagement, or waste of funds within a state agency without fear of disciplinary action being taken for such disclosure. This bill modifies that provision to apply to all public employees and broadens the scope of entities that a public employee can discuss information with to include prosecuting and circuit attorneys, law enforcement agencies, news media, and the public.

The bill further expands the scope of information that can be disclosed by employees to include any violation of policy, waste of public resources, alteration of technical findings or communication of scientific opinion, and breaches of professional ethical canons.

The bill requires for public employers to prominently post information regarding whistleblower protections for employees pursuant to this bill. An employee that alleges a violation of the state's whistleblower law may bring a civil action within one year after the

occurrence of the alleged violation.

In a civil action brought under the provisions of this bill, the employee must show by clear and convincing evidence that he or she reported a prohibited activity or a suspected prohibited activity. Upon such a showing, the public employer shall bear the burden of demonstrating that the disciplinary action taken against the employee was not the result of the employee reporting the alleged misconduct.

While this is a significant change in the law, it remains to be seen how problematic this change will be for public school districts. We believe that the provisions discussed above may create additional liability when attempting to remove or discipline employees and, thus, we suggest that our members check with their district's legal counsel regarding this change in the law.

Failed Legislation

Charter School Expansion

Few bills garnered as much attention early in the legislative session as [House Bill 2247](#), filed by Representative Rebecca Roeber (R - Lee's Summit). After months of discussion and slow progression through the House committee structure, the bill was finally placed on the House calendar. However, despite sitting on the House calendar for 2 months and despite being one of House leadership's primary bills of session, the bill was never brought to the House floor for a vote. This was due entirely to the school community and their staunch opposition to the bill. We expect for this bill to be filed again next session.

Education Savings Accounts (a.k.a. Vouchers)

Perhaps the only bill that received more attention than charter school expansion this session was [Senate Bill 612](#). Senate Bill 612 was filed by Senator Andrew Koenig (R - Manchester). Fortunately, a number of Senate Democrats refused to permit the bill to move forward in the process and the bill was never formally brought to a vote after numerous hours of floor debate.

Senate Bill 612 would have permitted certain students to receive voucher proceeds to attend private schools. The bill lacked accountability for the schools that accepted the funds; would have stripped \$25 million out of the general revenue fund; created additional bureaucracies; and permitted discrimination on the basis of disability, gender and religion. We expect this bill to be refiled next session.

Mandatory Reading Intervention

[Senate Bill 949](#), filed by Senator Ed Emery (R - Lamar), received much attention in the final days of session as it was rushed through the committee process in the House. As you will recall, SB 949 sought to repeal existing reading intervention programs that are already in state statute and establish a new reading intervention program for students beginning in kindergarten.

This was a very prescriptive and costly bill that would have required school districts to implement a myriad of reading intervention programs for all students not reading on grade level by second grade.

Students who were not reading at grade level by the end of the second grade were required to undergo intensive reading intervention. As part of this intensive reading intervention requirement, each school district would have been required to: 1) provide training to all K-3 teachers about screening assessments; 2) have a highly effective teacher provide instruction to said students (this would have required schools to move their teaching staff around to meet the requirements of the bill); 3) provide more dedicated time for reading instruction; 4) provide for progress monitoring of students; 5) provide structured literacy instruction; 6) offer a transitional instructional setting for students; 7) establish an intensive acceleration class for any student not reading proficient or above on the third grade state assessment; and 8) provide summer reading camps to all third grade students scoring at the lowest achievement level on the third grade statewide English language arts assessment.

The School Administrators Coalition testified against the bill. Because of the staunch opposition the bill received, the bill was never brought for a formal vote despite being rushed through the committee process by House leadership. This bill will be filed again next year.

School Board Election Modifications

[House Bill 1424](#), filed by Representative Rebecca Roeber (R - Lee's Summit), sought to modify the way communities elect school board members. House Bill 1424 required school board elections for seven-director school districts, urban school districts, and school districts with subdistricts to be held during the November general election, meaning board members would only be elected in even-numbered years. House Bill 1424 also sought to modify the terms of school board members from 3 year terms to 4 year terms.

The School Administrators Coalition testified against HB 1424 for a variety of reasons. The bill will likely be filed again next year.

Mandatory Gifted Instruction

[House Bill 1435](#), filed by Representative Chrissy Sommer (R - St. Charles), sought to require school districts to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students were determined to be gifted. Districts with average daily attendance of 350 or fewer students were not required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education, but any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must have participated in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services. The School Administrators Coalition was concerned with HB 1435 as it created an additional mandate on schools without providing additional funding for the program.

Residential Property Freeze

[House Bill 1513](#), filed by Representative Kevin Corlew (R – Kansas City), sought to limit residential property assessment increases. Specifically, the bill would have limited the increase in assessed valuation of residential property to the percentage of the increase in Social Security benefits in the previous year for an individual who is 67 years of age or older or who is disabled. The individual would also have to have had a federal adjusted gross income of less than \$60,000 for a taxpayer filing as “single” on his or her tax return or \$68,000 for a taxpayer filing as “married filing jointly” on his or her tax return and

owned and lived in his or her principal residence.

For the provisions above to take effect, the local county commission would have had to have issued an order stating the county's intention to adopt said provisions. The School Administrators Coalition opposed the bill. The bill did not progress beyond its initial House Committee.

Lobbyist Gift Ban Local Government Officials

[House Bill 1496](#), filed by Representative Shamed Dogan (R - Ballwin), sought to prohibit lobbyists from making any expenditure for local government officials, superintendents, school board members, members of governing bodies of charter schools, their staffs and specified family members. The School Administrators Coalition did not take a position on this bill. The bill will be refiled next session.

Reporting Requirements to Law Enforcement

[House Bill 1803](#), filed by Representative Mark Matthiesen (R - Maryland Heights), sought to relax two reporting requirements regarding Harassment in the 1st Degree and Third Degree Assault. More specifically, HB 1803 sought to give administrators greater discretion in reporting these offenses to law enforcement. The School Administrators Coalition testified in support of HB 1803. The bill will be refiled next year.

Modifications to Administrator Contracts

[House Bill 1861](#), filed by Representative Dean Dohrman (R - LaMonte), sought to, among other things, prevent superintendents and assistant superintendents from receiving more than a two-year contract. The School Administrators Coalition testified in opposition to the bill. The bill did not progress beyond its initial Committee hearing. This bill will likely be filed again next year.

Cronkite New Voices Act

[House Bill 1940](#), filed by Representative Kevin Corlew (R - Kansas City), sought to do away with the United States Supreme Court case, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*. In its place, HB 1940 sought to establish the "Cronkite New Voices Act." The Act provided that a student journalist had a right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media. These provisions did not apply to content that was libelous or slanderous; constituted an invasion of privacy; violated federal or state law; was a threat of violence; advertised a product or service that was illegal or was not permitted to be sold to minors by law; was likely to incite students to commit an unlawful act; or was likely to materially and substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the school. The School Administrators Coalition worked with the sponsor of the bill and resolved many of the Association's issues. We hope to work with the sponsor next session to resolve our remaining concerns. The bill will be refiled next year.

MSHSAA/State Fair Requirements

[House Bill 1839](#), filed by Representative Jay Houghton (R - Martinsburg), sought to require MSHSAA to provide volunteer or paid coaches to conduct athletic practices for any public school student that missed a team practice due to participating in the Missouri

State Fair. The School Administrators Coalition opposed the bill. It is unknown if the bill will be refiled next session.

Early Childhood Contracting

[House Bill 1664](#), filed by Representative Kathy Swan (R - Cape Girardeau), sought to allow children who attend early childhood education programs that are under contract with school districts or charter schools that had declared themselves as a local education agency to be included in the average daily attendance of the school district or charter school. The bill will be refiled next year.

Schools of Innovation

[House Bill 2200](#), filed by Representative Shawn Rhoads (R - West Plains), contained several provisions which provided greater flexibility for school districts (e.g., provisions regarding "schools of innovation," provisions regarding cooperative agreements; teacher certification modifications, etc.)

Some administrators may have been familiar with the provisions that allow for the creation of "schools of innovation" and that these provisions grant local districts flexibility. While the messaging of this bill sounded appealing, there were issues surrounding these provisions. There was serious opposition to this language from organizations representing both active and retired teachers. While some of the ideas regarding flexibility for local school districts that were contained within HB 2200 deserved consideration/conversation, possible changes to teacher tenure rights, salary schedules/pay, collective bargaining agreements, teacher certification and work after retirement all required thorough review.

We were further concerned regarding the impact that HB 2200 may have had on the retirement fund. If the provisions regarding work after retirement became law, an actuarial study conducted for PSRS believed it would have added between \$101-\$187 million in additional fund liability if just 100-200 teachers decided to retire early and avail themselves of the work after retirement provisions each year. A version of this bill will likely be filed again next session.

Superintendent Salary Caps

[House Bill 2220](#), filed by Representative Steve Cookson (R - Poplar Bluff), sought to prohibit any school district except the St. Louis and Kansas City Public School Districts from entering into a contract or renewing a contract with a superintendent that provided a salary and benefit package that was in excess of an amount equal to three (3) times the salary and benefits of a teacher with the same educational experience and background in that school district. The School Administrators Coalition opposed HB 2220 for a multitude of reasons. It is unknown if the bill will be refiled next session.

Sunshine Law/Record Retention Requirements

[House Bill 2523](#), filed by Representative David Gregory (R - St. Louis), sought to modify provisions related to the state's record retention laws as well as the Sunshine Law. We believe these changes were well intended; however, the modifications sought would have led to greater litigation for political subdivisions like school districts.

As you know, school districts are required to retain a whole host of documents pursuant to the state's record retention laws and regulations. Presently, when a record cannot be produced because a school district does not have the record, no penalty exists for the district's failure to have retained the document in question. However, under HB 2523, if a district failed to retain a record that it otherwise should have retained, the school district (and individual employees) could have been sued and been required to pay as much as \$10,000 per occurrence. The district would also have been required to pay reasonable attorney's fees to the individual who filed suit.

Other modifications in the bill were concerning as well; however, the above-described provision was the most troubling.

While we readily agree that our districts should follow the law and retain records, mistakes do happen. School districts are required to retain massive amounts of paperwork and, in some cases, employ hundreds of individuals who may not be aware of their obligations to retain documentation. A version of this bill will likely be filed again next session.

Mandatory Computer Programming Course Offering

[House Bill 1457](#), filed by Representative Jeanie Lauer (R - Blue Springs), sought to require school districts in Missouri to offer a course in computer programming to all students attending said school district's high school. Under the bill, students would not have been required to complete a computer programming course in order to graduate. The course would have to be taught by a teacher who holds a certificate of license to teach and could have been taught online. The bill failed to receive debate on the House floor.

Financial Transparency

[Senate Bill 810](#), filed by Senator Andrew Koenig (R - Manchester), would have required school districts to make certain information about the district's annual operating budget available on the district's website as well as on DESE's website within 15 days of adopting their budget. The information posted had to include the following: 1) the budget and any subsequent revisions; 2) a summary of personnel expenditures and district expenditures, broken down into subcategories as set forth in the bill; 3) the current collective bargaining agreement for each bargaining unit; 4) links to benefits information; 5) the audit report required under the bill; 6) salary and fringe benefit information for the district superintendent and employees whose salary exceeds \$75,000; 7) the annual amount spent on dues paid to associations; 8) the annual amount spent on lobbying or lobbying services; 9) information about district-maintained credit cards; and 10) costs of out-of-state travel by the district superintendent.

In order to determine the reasonableness of expenditures and whether a violation had occurred, DESE was to require each district to have an audit of the district's financial and pupil accounting records, as set forth in the bill.

School districts would also have been required to submit to DESE, by November 1st of each year, annual comprehensive financial data, as described in the bill. Additionally, school districts were required to file a special education actual cost report and a transportation expenditure report with DESE.

If a school district failed to comply with the budget reporting requirements of the act,

DESE could withhold up to 10% of the total state aid due to the district until the district complied with the reporting requirements. If such compliance did not occur by the end of the fiscal year, the district forfeited the amount withheld.

This bill was incredibly onerous and punitive. It would have required additional resources be spent on adhering to these mandatory reporting requirements. The School Administrators Coalition strongly opposed SB 810. A House version of this bill was filed by Representative Phil Christofanelli (R - St. Peters). The School Administrators Coalition also strongly opposed that bill.

Password Protection

[Senate Bill 899](#), filed by Senator Caleb Rowden (R - Columbia), sought to protect student and employee passwords for their personal online accounts. As the bill was drafted, it would have created several problems with regard to investigating alleged misconduct for both employees and students. The School Administrators Coalition testified for informational purposes noting the inherent problems the bill may create if passed. The bill did not progress beyond its initial hearing.

Agriculture Land Values

[Senate Bill 548](#), filed by Sen. Brian Munzlinger (R - Clarence), sought to prohibit the State Tax Commission from promulgating a rule that increases agricultural land productive values more than two percent over the current values in effect. The Commission would also have been prohibited from increasing the values for land in any county that had been declared by the United States Department of Agriculture to be affected by a natural disaster in the preceding two years. The School Administrators Coalition was opposed to the bill. The bill did not progress beyond its initial hearing. It is unknown if the bill will be filed against next session.

As noted above, this session was successful in many respects. The success seen this session was completely derived from the hard work of our members, their staffs, their boards of education and communities. Thank you for advocating for your school districts and for public education as a whole.

[Complete Listing of 2018 Bill Summaries Impacting Education](#)

If you can not access this link, simply copy and paste
<http://www.mcsa.org/reference/BillsSummary.htm> in your browser.

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This newsletter is a benefit provided to you through your membership in one of the following organizations:

