

Points to Consider When Contacting Your Legislator

- No Child Left Behind requires that schools do whatever it takes to insure that all students achieve at high levels. This requires the concerted effort of all educators:
 - Teachers
 - Counselors
 - Administrators
 - Curriculum specialists
 - Special education teachers
 - Speech-language pathologists
 - And many others
- All educators within four Missouri districts are exempt from Social Security and are full members of PSRS. These four districts submitted their 218 Agreement modification after 1984, showing that the liberal definition of teacher is the current definition of teacher.
- In 1984, Social Security changed to require that all new employees make Medicare FICA contributions. Employees hired prior to 1984 do not contribute to Medicare FICA, showing precedence that changes in Social Security should not affect existing employees.
- Education and the world have changed since the 1950s when Francis Howell submitted its 218 Agreement Modification. Students today benefit from:
 - Reading recovery teachers
 - Literacy coaches
 - Special education teachers
 - Certificated vocational education teachers
 - Certificated family and consumer science teachers
 - School counselors
 - Certificated early childhood teachers
 - And many others
- While counselors and speech-language pathologists can work in other settings without teacher certification, they must have it to work in schools.
- If this pending change becomes a reality, school districts will not be able to fill positions that do not have the full PSRS teacher retirement benefit. This will affect school district's ability to fulfill requirements:
 - Positions & teacher: student ratios under MSIP
 - Highly qualified teachers under NCLB
 - Highly qualified teachers under IDEA
- If you are in a position that involves the improvement of instruction such as a Dean, Content Leader, Department Chair, Teacher Leader, Literacy Specialist, Coordinator, Director, etc., point out that your position falls within the definition of a supervisor – “A position whereby the occupant is certificated and is employed in the supervision of instruction, or in teaching and in the supervision of instruction.”
- If you are in a position that is one of the many positions in our District that have been created since 1951 (when FHSD signed its §218 agreement), be sure to point out that your position falls within the definition of teacher – “A position in which the occupant is required by state law, on the date the District executed its §218 agreement, to have a Missouri teaching certificate, or, if the position was created after the District executed its §218 agreement, on the date such new position was created.” On the date that your position was created a teacher certificate was required.