

# Special School District of St. Louis County

## School Choice Overview

Following the decision of the Missouri Supreme Court *Breitenfeld v. The School District of Clayton*, the Special School District (SSD) Board of Education, Superintendent, and senior administrators provide the following guidance as to how special education services and technical education are affected by the school choice program permitted under Section 167.131, RSMo:

### **Early Childhood Special Education**

- Section 167.131 does not apply to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE).

### **SSD Public Separate Schools**

- Students may not transfer directly into an SSD special education school under Section 167.131.

### **SSD Technical High Schools**

- Students may not transfer directly into an SSD technical high school under Section 167.131.
- Students who meet eligibility criteria and who are enrolled in a component/partner school district may apply to attend a technical high school.
- SSD would not provide transportation between a choice school and a technical high school.

### **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

- SSD will make special education services available to children with disabilities who choose to attend school in an accredited component/partner district under Section 167.131.
- SSD should be involved in the school district selection and school assignment processes.
- Because SSD is without lawful authority to do so, SSD will not provide FAPE to students in schools outside of St. Louis County.

### **Transportation**

- Because SSD is without lawful authority to do so, SSD will not provide transportation as a related service to students who are residents in Normandy or Riverview Gardens but who choose to attend school in an accredited component/partner district.
- SSD will not provide transportation for children who choose to attend school outside of St. Louis County.