

Public Abstract

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Title:A case study of northwest Missouri legislators' perceptions of the Missouri Teacher Tenure Act.

The purpose of this study was to gain insight as to Northwest Missouri State Legislators' perceptions about the Missouri Teacher Tenure Act and proposed changes to the act. With recent government intervention into education with NCLB, state legislators are considering how to ensure teacher quality and increase student achievement to ensure federal funding. Across the nation, teacher tenure is being reviewed as an impact on both. Previous research offered teacher and administrator perceptions of teacher tenure (Kersten, 2006; Clowes, 2003; White-Smith 2002). However, these studies omitted an integral group involved, state legislators. It is not known if state legislators held similar beliefs as administrators and teachers. Knowledge of state legislators' perceptions can lead to further discussions between state legislators and education advocates in hopes common ground can be achieved regarding teacher tenure parameters beneficial to all.