TALKING POINTS: RESOLUTION OPPOSING OPEN ENROLLMENT

For the past several legislative sessions of the Missouri General Assembly, the issue of open enrollment for all Missouri school districts has been debated. This proposed legislation is going to be debated yet again in the 2023 Missouri legislative session. Most statewide education groups, organizations, and cooperatives are opposed to open enrollment. Here are some of the primary talking points regarding open enrollment:

* To our knowledge, no state or national studies or research have shown that open enrollment improves student outcomes or achievement.
* Under open enrollment, the loss of students from a district will leave less funds and other resources to educate the remaining students.
* Some school districts are likely to lose students in sufficient numbers to force school closures and consolidations.

* Public school districts will be pitted against one another to attract students.
* Districts will be compelled to spend significant money, time and effort marketing to students residing in other school districts.
* And, members should be cognizant that, if passed, legislators will only attempt to further expand open enrollment (e.g., mandating use of open enrollment).