



VOLUNTARY INTERDISTRICT CORPORATION TRANSFER PROGRAM



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AGENDA

- ❑ What is the VICC Program?
- ❑ Historical Background
- ❑ Participating Districts/Students
- ❑ Funding
- ❑ New Directions



WHAT IS THE VICC PROGRAM?



- ❑ **Saint Louis Student Transfer Program** - established to increase racially integrated learning opportunities for St. Louis students under a Settlement Agreement reached in the St. Louis desegregation case and approved by the Federal Court in 1983.
- ❑ **Settlement Agreement** - allows African American students residing in the City of St. Louis to attend one of several participating school districts in St. Louis County, provided certain eligibility requirements regarding residency and behavior records are met.
- ❑ **VICC Program** - provides for non-African American students who live in participating suburban school districts to transfer into St. Louis City Magnet Schools.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **1999** - a revised Settlement Agreement was reached amongst the various parties which transformed the federally supervised voluntary program into one implemented by a newly established 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC), with the agreement that suburban school districts would continue accepting new transfer students for at least a ten-year period ending in 2008-2009.

- **New Agreement** - included language specifying that the program could be extended to accept new students beyond the 2008-2009 original ending date for new enrollments.





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ❑ **June 2007** - an initial five-year extension pursuant to this provision was unanimously approved by the VICC Board
- ❑ **October 2012** - a second five-year extension approved was approved by the VICC Board
 - ❑ New students were continuing to be enrolled by districts through at least the 2018-2019 school year. Once enrolled, students are allowed to continue their education in their participating suburban district through graduation.
- ❑ **November 2016** - the VICC governing board voted to wind down the program following the 2018-2019 school year
 - ❑ New students may continue to enroll with an **emphasis on siblings** through 2024 and once enrolled, students may continue in the program through high school graduation. Students who are currently enrolled may also continue attending their school through graduation.

PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS/STUDENT



□ Participating Districts

- Afton, Bayless, Brentwood, Clayton, Hancock Place, Kirkwood (siblings only), Mehlville, Parkway, Rockwood, Valley Park, Webster Groves and Saint Louis Public Schools. (A few transfer students remain enrolled in the Lindbergh school district, and students continue to be served by the Saint Louis County Special School District)
- **September 2017** - 4,235 St. Louis students were attending county schools, and 157 county students were attending St. Louis City magnet schools. (At the height of its enrollment, the program served about 14,600 transfer students total.)
- **2017-2018 School Year**- the program has accepted 413 new city-to-county transfer students and 85 county-to-city transfers.



FUNDING

- ❑ **VICC's Funding** - to support the transfer program is received through the State of Missouri's normal public school aid sources as state aid payments simply follow the students. There are no special or additional revenues. VICC then uses these funds to provide transportation service and to pay tuition amounts to participating school districts.
- ❑ **1999** - St. Louis City voters approved a 2/3 cent sales tax increase to help fund city schools (and to replace some of the court-ordered state contributions to the Saint Louis Public Schools under the original 1983 Settlement Agreement.) Settlement Agreement also authorized two \$25 million payments to VICC to cover the transportation costs of transitioning to a system in which city students would only have transportation provided if they attended county schools that are paired with their residential attendance area.
- ❑ **2003-2004** - county districts received their respective per pupil education cost in full from VICC for each transfer student. In 2004-2005, annual tuition payments to suburban districts were capped around \$7,000 per student. ⁷



NEW DIRECTION

- ❑ The VICC Board may commission a study in the future to transition over time to a more modern program that would potentially include additional districts and revise the student selection process from race to socio-economic status which will achieve the goals of both racial integration and diversity as well as socio-economic diversity.
- ❑ There will be many issues that will have to be identified, discussed and resolved and, as a result, we do not anticipate any such transition occurring in the immediate future---possibly as late as after the final extension (2023/24) but possibly earlier than that if achievable.
- ❑ The implementation of a program with revised student selection process would require the unanimous approval of all VICC districts as well as any new districts included in such program.





QUESTIONS

