



## The History of the VICC Program

### 1. What is the St. Louis Student Transfer Program?

The St. Louis Student Transfer Program was 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. This 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. The program also provides for non-African-American students who live in participating suburban school districts to transfer into St. Louis Magnet Schools in the city.

### 2. What is the history of the program?

In 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. This 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. An initial five-year extension pursuant to this provision was unanimously approved by the VICC Board in June, 2007, with a second five-year extension approved in October, 2012. As a result, new students are 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.

### 3. Who manages the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corp?

Originally under the supervision of the Federal Court, the St. Louis Student Transfer program is now managed by the non-profit corporation governed by a board of directors comprised of superintendents of the participating school districts who decide policy and make decisions about the program in accordance with the provisions of the governing Settlement Agreement. Each board member's vote is weighted in proportion to the number of transfer students his/her district serves.

### 4. How many students are currently served by the program?

About 2,500 students currently participate in the St. Louis Student Transfer Program, down from a peak of over 14,000 in the 1999-2000 school year.

### 5. How is the program funded?

Virtually all of VICC's funding to support the transfer program is received from the State of Missouri through its normal public school aid sources. These state aid payments simply follow the students from their district of residence to the program. VICC receives no special or additional revenues so there are no extra costs to Missouri taxpayers. Funds are used to provide transportation service and to pay tuition amounts to participating school districts based upon the local districts' costs of education.