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Congressman Akin Meets with Educators to Discuss Bush's Education Plan

Akin will also discuss legislative priorities with St. Charles business leaders

(St. Louis, MO)- Today, Congressman Akin will meet with area business leaders in St. Charles. Akin will attend the Public Affairs Breakfast of the Economic Development Center. The Congressman will address the incubator group for new-business start-ups, and outline legislative priorities and the recent repeal by Congress on ergonomic regulations.

Akin will also address a combined gathering of St. Charles, St. Peters and O'Fallon Chambers of Commerce and other area business leaders at the Ambassadors Luncheon in St. Charles.

The Congressman will meet later with administrators from St. Charles and St. Louis Counties to discuss key elements of President Bush's education reform plan. The plan incorporates six basic objectives:

1. Close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers;
2. Strengthen early learning by establishing the "Reading First" program and reforming head start by making school readiness-pre reading- its top priority;
3. Raise standards through local control, accountability and choice;
4. Give parents more options from kindergarten to college;
5. Improve teacher quality and increase resources;
6. Restore schools safety and promote character development.

"I am taking an active role in writing legislation that will insure local control of testing," said Akin. "As a firm believer in local control, I value input from our local administrators."