



MISSOURI SENATE

Jeff Smith
4th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Smith to Share Love of Reading With Kindergartners

Jefferson City — This week, Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, will visit kindergartners at the Confluence Academy, South City Campus, at 4235 Compton Ave., St. Louis, on Friday, Feb. 22, to participate in a Reading Assembly designed to encourage students to read for study — and pleasure.

Sen. Smith will read to kindergartners from six classes, beginning at 2 p.m. According to school librarian Linda Patton, Sen. Smith and other special guests were invited to participate in the newly created program, which promotes reading through adult participation.

“It’s a real joy to share my love of reading with these kids,” Sen. Smith said. “Successful study habits and academic achievement begin in kindergarten, so there’s no better time to demonstrate the benefits of developing strong reading skills.”

Since last year, Sen. Smith has visited more than 30 schools in the city of St. Louis and expects to visit every school in the 4th Senate District by the end of the year. A university professor, Sen. Smith cites improving urban education as one of his top legislative priorities.

Sen. Smith is a co-founder of the Confluence Academies, a group of urban public charter schools, and has created programs to increase parental involvement. He serves on the Confluence Board of Directors and also serves on the Missouri Charter Public School Association's Board of Directors.

South City is the newest of the three Confluence Academy campuses, which serve more than 2,300 students in grades K-7 in the Old North St. Louis, Walnut Park and South City neighborhoods.

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