



MISSOURI SENATE

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Sen. Mayer's *Rebuild Missouri Schools* Legislation Signed by Governor

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri school districts will now have the financial means to recover and rebuild when school facilities are affected by catastrophic events thanks to legislation sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer (R-Dexter) and signed by the governor today.

Sen. Mayer's [*Rebuild Missouri Schools Program*](#) (Senate Bill 1170), passed by the General Assembly earlier this year, allows school districts with one or more school facilities in a declared disaster area to apply for no-interest loans with the state board of education through a 20-year repayment agreement.

"Southeast Missouri has experienced several natural disasters in the past couple of years, with one causing extensive damage to Caruthersville High School," Sen. Mayer said. "The *Rebuild Missouri Schools Program* will provide the Caruthersville school district and others across the state that experience property losses from natural catastrophes with the financial ability to rebuild and remain open for students."

Two years ago, a tornado ripped through Caruthersville and nearly destroyed the school. The school must be rebuilt to strict building codes in order to withstand an earthquake because it lies within the New Madrid Fault Zone.

Under the program, schools districts eligible for the *Rebuild Missouri Schools Program* must have experienced a pre-set level of damage or destruction as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to an act of God.

"I'm very pleased Missouri can now offer this financial relief to school districts in the event this kind of catastrophe occurs," Sen. Mayer said.

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