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Senator John Cauthorn Announces Passage of New Formula for School Funding

Plan adds \$800 million annually for Missouri schools

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – State Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, today announced the successful passage of a bill rewriting Missouri’s education funding formula. The new funding plan will be based on student needs in each district rather than property taxes.

Creating a new “foundation formula” has been a top priority of lawmakers and Gov. Matt Blunt this session. The Senate passed the plan late last night and awaits anticipated approval by the House of Representatives.

“This plan is just what Missouri needed to get its education system back on track,” Cauthorn said. “The old formula is broken and we have found a solution – one that makes certain every school has the resources to provide a quality education.”

Sen. Cauthorn had early reservations about the funding plan’s effect on rural districts. However, the final version agreed to in conference committee struck a good balance of funding for rural and urban districts.

“Funding Missouri schools should not be about rural versus urban,” Cauthorn said. “It should be about providing the best education we can for our children. The plan we have now guarantees Missouri’s children will always be the top priority.”

The new plan increases funding for Missouri schools by \$800 million annually and accounts for the varying costs of living between districts. New funding will be phased in over the next seven years. An additional \$15 million in funding for smaller school districts has also been included in the plan.

“These additional funds ensure that smaller school districts are not left behind or forced to consolidate,” Cauthorn said. “This plan is a sound investment in the future of all Missourians.”

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