

*“Nothing is politically right  
which is morally wrong.”*  
– Daniel O’Connell



*“Free and fair discussion will ever be  
found the firmest friend of truth.”*  
– George Campbell

# MISSOURI SENATE

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District 21

**Capitol Building, Room 332**  
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## **Senator Stouffer: School Foundation Formula**

For those of us raised in small, rural schools, there is an appreciation for the way education works in that type of setting. It was my goal, while creating an education formula, to make sure small, rural schools received their fair share. After the House refused to pass the first formula it gave us time to go to the table and decide exactly how to distribute the \$15 million small school grant program.

Our small, rural schools play a vital role in community pride in small towns throughout Missouri. It’s where our parents went to school, where our team won its conference title over the neighboring rivals, and where the local FCCLA, FFA, or student council hosts programs to involve the entire community. It is the social focal point after everything and everyone else has moved somewhere bigger. It provides students the opportunity to live big in a small place.

The \$15 million wouldn’t make that big of a difference if distributed to sizable districts in St. Louis or Kansas City, but in rural Missouri it will make a huge impact in the quality of education of our small, rural schools.

The Small Schools Grant Program distributes money on a per-pupil basis to schools with less than 350 students. The amount of funding each school receives is dependent on two factors. The first mechanism looks at payouts from the new funding formula, which is a student-needs based formula that guarantees each school will spend at least \$6,117 per student. The second considers local tax levies, much like the old formula that was tax-rate driven. This allows schools like Pilot Grove, Callao, Malta Bend, and Hardin-Central whose communities have

continually supported their districts with increased tax levies, the opportunity to keep their doors open. In eight years, this would bring over \$20 million to the 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District alone.

I have often said that the new formula is not perfect. It is a political compromise to move the state away from a tax-rate driven formula and towards a student-needs formula.

The payouts from this small school program are significant. The following is a list of local schools and the amount they will receive from the small school grant program, on top of additional funding from the new formula.

It is important to note this amount is to be spread over eight years.

CARROLL	HALE R-I	\$321,015
CARROLL	TINA-AVALON R-II	\$909,127
CARROLL	BOSWORTH R-V	\$691,099
CARROLL	NORBORNE R-VIII	\$1,061,956
CHARITON	NORTHWESTERN R-I (MENDON)	\$875,624
CHARITON	BRUNSWICK R-II	\$1,113,602
CHARITON	KEYTESVILLE R-III	\$810,514
COOPER	BLACKWATER R-II	\$384,286
COOPER	COOPER CO. R-IV	\$1,129,947
COOPER	PRAIRIE HOME R-V	\$933,284
COOPER	OTTERVILLE R-VI	\$1,261,780
COOPER	PILOT GROVE C-4	\$1,166,474
HOWARD	HOWARD COUNTY R-II (GLASGOW)	\$1,190,549
MACON	ATLANTA C-3	\$880,470
MACON	BEVIER C-4	\$548,927
MACON	CALLAO C-8	\$456,754
MACON	MACON CO. R-IV (NEW CAMBRIA)	\$829,033
RAY	STET R-XV	\$685,117
RAY	HARDIN-CENTRAL C-2	\$1,342,522
SALINE	MIAMI R-I	\$558,281
SALINE	OREARVILLE R-IV	\$257,569
SALINE	MALTA BEND R-V	\$641,401
SALINE	HARDEMAN R-X	\$358,448
SALINE	GILLIAM C-4	\$353,510
SALINE	SLATER	\$1,491,799
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,253,090</b>

If you have questions regarding this or any other matter or you would like to receive this weekly column electronically, please feel free to email [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov) or call toll free (866) 768-3987.