



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Jason Crowell
27th Senate District

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Sen. Jason Crowell Applauds Cape School District's Decision

JEFFERSON CITY—Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today commended the Cape Girardeau School District for backing out of a lawsuit against the state over public school funding.

The school board voted unanimously earlier this week to end its participation in the legal battle in which more than 200 Missouri school districts sued the state with claims that the public school funding formula is inadequate and unconstitutional.

Crowell said that although the school districts were debatably justified in challenging the old way the state funded public schools, the state Legislature fixed the problem this year by devoting countless hours to rewriting the formula so that funding is based on the needs of the student, rather than only assessed property valuations.

“The new formula has received the support of the school board members because they realize it will provide equitable and adequate state resources to students in the Cape school district,” Crowell said. “I applaud them for assessing the long-term benefits of the new formula and voting to withdraw from the lawsuit.”

Public schools in Cape Girardeau are slated to receive more than \$3.86 million in added state funding during the next seven fiscal years. Crowell said the school board members obviously see this funding increase as significant.

“As a hold-harmless district, Cape public schools didn’t receive a state increase from the previous foundation formula passed in 1992—they were ‘held hopeless’, a situation changed this session,” Crowell said.

He said that now the question is whether other school districts want to continue putting taxpayer money toward unnecessary legal procedures.

“Cape Girardeau School district said ‘no’ because the money would be more wisely invested in the education of our children,” Crowell said. “I think if other Missouri school districts fairly considered the formula’s long-term effects, more and more would echo that response.”

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