



STATE SENATOR JASON CROWELL - ROOM 323, STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Missouri's Foundation Formula

State Budget Reflects that Education is the Top Legislative Priority

Education is always an important issue to legislators, but this year it is uniquely important. On January 6, 2004 over 100 Missouri school districts jointly filed suit against the State of Missouri claiming that the state's current school-funding system was inadequate and inequitable. Since 1990, school funding has been determined using a foundation formula. The formula requires an evaluation of dozens of criteria, and districts receive more funding if certain objectives are met, ranging from improving student attendance to passing a bond election.

Over the past few months, members from both the House and the Senate met in a joint-committee to rewrite the 15-year-old foundation formula with the goal of improving the way money is distributed by the state. The proposed formula breaks down among school districts across the 27th Senatorial district as follows:

SCHOOL DISTRICT	FY05 Funding	Estimated FY06 Funding	Increase from FY05	% Increase Over FY05
Meadow Heights R-II	\$1,744,625	\$2,409,808	\$665,183	38.13%
Leopold R-II	\$701,909	\$976,046	\$274,136	39.06%
Zalma R-V	\$898,402	\$1,282,441	\$384,040	42.75%
Woodland R-IV	\$2,617,678	\$3,870,551	\$1,252,873	47.86%
Jackson R-II	\$9,309,508	\$15,197,076	\$5,887,568	63.24%
Delta R-V	\$1,149,281	\$1,483,120	\$333,840	29.05%
Oak Ridge R-VI	\$999,195	\$1,623,495	\$624,300	62.48%
Cape Girardeau 63	\$5,118,703	\$8,420,261	\$3,301,558	64.50%
Nell Holcomb R-IV	\$770,881	\$1,282,671	\$511,790	66.39%
Marquand-Zion R-VI	\$637,377	\$800,810	\$163,434	25.64%
Fredericktown R-I	\$5,733,928	\$7,483,132	\$1,749,204	30.51%
East Prairie R-II	\$3,193,709	\$4,920,540	\$1,726,830	54.07%
Charleston R-I	\$3,531,359	\$5,618,369	\$2,087,009	59.10%
Perry Co. 32	\$3,336,203	\$5,120,550	\$1,784,346	53.48%
Altenburg 48	\$204,389	\$246,166	\$41,778	20.44%
Scott City R-I	\$2,632,747	\$4,147,170	\$1,514,423	57.52%
Scott Co. R-II	\$1,738,660	\$2,443,813	\$705,152	40.56%
Scott Co. R-IV	\$2,717,168	\$4,340,392	\$1,623,225	59.74%
Scott Co. Central Schools	\$1,472,197	\$2,065,827	\$593,630	40.32%
Sikeston R-VI	\$11,014,106	\$15,900,600	\$4,886,494	44.37%
Kelso C-7	\$284,586	\$363,699	\$79,113	27.80%

Oran R-III	\$1,156,342	1,560,274	\$403,932	34.93%
------------	-------------	-----------	-----------	--------

As you can see, under the proposed formula, school districts across the 27th Senatorial district will receive significantly more funding. The formula is a work in progress and no promises have been made yet. I talked much in the past few weeks about the tight fiscal situation that the state faces. My colleagues and I made many tough budget decisions in order to put ourselves in a position that we can increase funding to education. Even in these tight times, the Governor's budget for this upcoming fiscal year increases primary and secondary education funding by more than \$170 million. The formula itself proposes increasing school funding by at least \$660 million over the next five years.

I firmly believe that a strong education system is vital to the future of our state. Amazing things happen when a person stays in school and receives an education- they are more likely to stay out of prison, teen pregnancy goes down, and drug and alcohol abuse goes down. People that receive their High School diplomas are much more likely to become contributors to society rather than someone that is a drain on society's resources. These are just a few of the reasons that education is and will continue to be my top priority. I will continue to fight for schools to get the funding they need so that our children will receive the education they deserve.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

Thank you for your time.

Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.