



## School-Funding Success Without Tax Increase

*New “Foundation formula” is an Important Step in Improving State’s Education System*

Last week the Missouri General Assembly approved the state’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year. One of the brightest provisions in the \$19.2 billion is the \$113 million increase in K-12 education funding. In the closing week the legislature succeeded in crafting a new formula to distribute state money to Missouri’s 384 school districts without a tax increase- a task that critics said could not be done. The new foundation formula is a powerful step in improving the education that children throughout the state of Missouri receive. The biggest change from the old formula is that the new formula bases the level of financing on students’ needs rather than local wealth. Additionally, the formula guarantees that the state will spend at least \$6,117 per student. This figure was derived from a study that showed the state’s most successful schools spend an average of \$6,117 per student. This means that every district in the state of Missouri will have the basic resources needed to educate their students.

The new formula will be phased in starting in the 2007 fiscal year. For this upcoming fiscal year, the state will remain under the old formula. The table below shows the increase in funding that districts in the 27<sup>th</sup> Senatorial district will receive this upcoming fiscal year as a result of the additional \$113 million from the appropriations process.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	FY05 Funding	Estimated FY06 Funding	Increase from FY05	% Increase Over FY05
Meadow Heights R-II	\$1,744,625	\$1,857,330	\$122,705	7.03%
Leopold R-II	\$701,909	\$739,643	\$37,734	5.38%
Zalma R-V	\$898,402	\$940,651	\$42,249	4.70%
Woodland R-IV	\$2,617,678	\$2,742,319	\$124,641	4.54%
Jackson R-II	\$9,309,508	\$9,775,682	\$466,174	5.00%
Delta R-V	\$1,149,281	\$1,214,249	\$64,968	5.65%
Oak Ridge R-VI	\$999,195	\$1,047,365	\$48,170	4.82%
Cape Girardeau 63	\$5,118,703	\$5,240,766	\$122,063	2.38%
Nell Holcomb R-IV	\$770,881	\$795,759	\$24,878	3.22%
Marquand-Zion R-VI	\$637,377	\$663,546	\$26,169	4.10%
Fredericktown R-I	\$5,733,928	\$5,929,216	\$195,288	3.41%
East Prairie R-II	\$3,193,709	\$3,389,592	\$195,883	6.13%

Charleston R-I	\$3,531,359	\$3,819,109	\$287,750	8.15%
Perry Co. 32	\$3,336,203	\$3,455,256	\$119,053	3.57%
Altenburg 48	\$204,389	\$228,180	\$23,791	11.64%
Scott City R-I	\$2,632,747	\$2,830,663	\$197,916	7.52%
Scott Co. R-II	\$1,738,660	\$1,867,565	\$128,905	7.41%
Scott Co. R-IV	\$2,717,168	\$2,850,917	\$133,749	4.92%
Scott Co. Central Schools	\$1,472,197	\$1,565,039	\$92,842	6.31%
Sikeston R-VI	\$11,014,106	\$11,798,090	\$783,984	7.12%
Kelso C-7	\$284,586	\$288,490	\$3,904	1.37%
Oran R-III	\$1,156,342	\$1,217,203	\$60,861	5.26%

I have said it before and I will say it again, education is my top priority. I am very pleased with the new formula and am confident that the state of Missouri now has an effective funding mechanism in place.

### **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](mailto: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.*