

THE GREEN WIRE

SENATOR TIMOTHY P. GREEN - DISTRICT 13

ROOM 330, STATE CAPITOL, JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101 - PHONE 573-751-2420



Contact:

Janson M. Thomas

(573) 751-2420

April 19, 2006

Sen. Green Renews Call for an Audit of Riverview Gardens School District

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Sen. Timothy Green, D-Spanish Lake, renewed his call on Governor Blunt to authorize an audit of the records of the Riverview Gardens School District.

“I have been receiving calls since January 2005 from parents, students and teachers on the accountability of the Riverview Gardens School District,” said Sen. Green.

On April 27, several hundred students walked out of class to protest the firing of the Riverview Gardens Senior High School principal. Two St. Louis area state representatives joined Sen. Green in a written request in May 2005 calling on Governor Blunt to authorize a necessary audit. This request was declined. Sen. Green continues to receive telephone calls from concerned parents and teachers about the situation and the flow of experienced educators leaving this troubled school district.

Recent developments regarding the questionable accountability of the Riverview Gardens School District have prompted this renewed request. News media has reported that the St. Louis county prosecutor's office has confiscated district records and is investigating federal funds the district received for computer technology. Investigators are also looking into allegations of kickbacks and nepotism among high-ranking district officials.

“The students continue to suffer and this audit would assist in educating the Governor and the concerned public of the misuse of funds,” said Sen. Green.

“During this legislative session, I offered an amendment allowing the state auditor to audit school districts without a petition,” said Sen. Green. This amendment was removed in the conference committee on the school foundation formula bill which passed last year.
