



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

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JEFFERSON CITY

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lawmakers Announce Two-thirds Classroom Funding Target for Missouri Schools

Sen. Rob Mayer Introduces Bill to Put More Money into Classrooms

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. – Encouraging school districts to invest more money into classrooms and directly towards Missouri students' educations, Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, today introduced legislation that sets a two-thirds target of total school expenditures to go towards education classroom costs including teachers, equipment, librarians, media resources, and guidance counseling.

“Our students deserve a world class education,” Mayer said. “That is why it is so important that we encourage school districts to devote more money to our classrooms instead of administration costs.”

The measure would go before a vote of the people on the November ballot if approved by the General Assembly. The measure, Senate Bill 983, is an expansion of the governor's plan introduced last year. The target has been raised to two-thirds of a school district's total expenditures but also includes library and media services as well as guidance counseling under the definition of classroom expenditures.

The proposal would also require each school district's target percentage and actual classroom expenses to be published in school district's annual accountability report cards.

“The more money a school district can spend on the students instead of administration costs, the better it is for the students,” Mayer said. “School districts should have local control, but we also need them to be accountable and publishing a district's classroom target will let parents know how their tax dollars are being spent on their children's education.”

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The measure also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to report to the General Assembly and governor each district's classroom expenditures and the effectiveness of the goal. Districts meeting the two-thirds target will be recognized by the governor every year as a 'Students First District.'

"Many of our school districts already do a great job of spending money on their students and the resources they need for a great education and this will recognize those districts," Mayer said. "By giving parents a right to know how a school district is spending money to educate their children, all our students will benefit."

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** A list compiled by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the percentages of funds spent on Classroom Expenditures of each Missouri School District according to the definition in SB 983 Can be found on Sen. Mayer's Senate website under the 'Press Releases' link:

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/06info/members/mem25.htm>

***Audio clips in .mp3 format of Sen. Mayer's announcement can be found on the Missouri Senate Newsroom Audio/Video webpage under "Daily Cuts":

<http://www.senate.state.mo.us/05info/press-room/radio.html>