



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Senate Passes State Operating Budget

Missouri's Schools Remain Top Priority in General Assembly

We succeeded last year in writing a new foundation formula that distributes funds more equitably and is based on the needs of students, not local tax rates. We made funding education our number one priority last year by adding \$113 million to the K-12 education budget. I am happy to announce that the General Assembly again followed through on its promise and fully funded the formula by adding an additional \$142 million this year. Below is a listing of area school districts and the estimated state funding increases they will see next year under the new budget.

	FY '06 State Funding	FY '07 State Funding	FY '07 Increase	% Increase
Meadow Heights	\$1,670,807	\$1,788,469	\$117,662	7.04%
Leopold	\$749,454	\$849,587	\$100,133	13.36%
Zalma	\$872,745	\$982,650	\$109,905	12.59%
Woodland	\$2,726,409	\$2,950,289	\$223,880	8.21%
Jackson	\$10,993,743	\$11,597,221	\$603,478	5.49%
Delta	\$1,144,548	\$1,301,462	\$156,914	13.71%
Oak Ridge	\$1,358,244	\$1,393,309	\$35,065	2.58%
Cape Girardeau	\$5,414,119	\$5,894,710	\$480,591	8.88%
Nell Holcomb	\$804,080	\$878,840	\$74,760	9.30%
Marquand-Zion	\$767,685	\$886,585	\$118,900	15.49%
Fredericktown	\$5,630,644	\$5,853,920	\$223,276	3.97%
East Prairie	\$3,309,335	\$3,539,993	\$230,658	6.97%
Charleston	\$3,583,304	\$3,816,362	\$233,058	6.50%
Perry County	\$3,363,671	\$3,585,464	\$221,793	6.59%
Altenburg	\$225,293	\$286,221	\$60,928	27.04%
Scott City R-I	\$2,681,293	\$2,913,582	\$232,289	8.66%
Scott County R-II	\$1,643,161	\$1,783,839	\$140,678	8.56%
Scott County R-IV	\$3,058,318	\$3,239,982	\$181,664	5.94%
Scott County Central	\$1,569,162	\$1,614,730	\$45,568	2.90%

Sikeston	\$11,173,827	\$11,786,113	\$612,286	5.48%
Kelso	\$267,731	\$344,700	\$76,969	28.75%
Oran	\$1,243,390	\$1,292,542	\$49,152	3.95%
Total	\$64,250,963	\$68,580,570	\$4,329,607	9.64%

*Does not include local funding

Parkview State School and the Career & Technology Center

The Senate will begin debating a bill that will provide funding for two important projects for our area. The first will provide \$100,000 for wheelchair playground equipment at Parkview State School for the severely handicapped. The school serves elementary through high school-aged students from Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Perry, Scott and Stoddard Counties. The much needed funding will allow the school to build a playground with the children's needs in mind.

Also in this appropriation legislation is \$750,000 for the Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center. The funding will be used by the center to expand its current facilities made necessary by increased enrollment and employer demand. The expansion will include five additional classrooms that will be utilized for electronics and industry training, community education programming and higher education institutions.

Southeast Missouri State University

We also approved a 2-percent increase for universities and community colleges, the first higher education fund boost in several years. For Southeast Missouri State University, this translates into a funding increase of close to \$1 million.

Also making its way through the legislative process is a plan to distribute the funds raised from the sale of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) assets. Under the current plan, \$17.2 million of the proceeds would go to Southeast Missouri State University to retire bonds sold for the River Campus.



Included in the legislation is \$5 million for a Southeast Missouri Business Incubator. The MOHELA appropriation will be debated on the House floor next week and will then move to the Senate for approval.

SEMO Missouri Crime Lab Funding

The Southeast Missouri Crime lab analyzes law enforcement evidence for 18 counties and 90 law enforcement agencies (federal, state and local) across the region. In past years, the lab, which is under the control of Southeast Missouri State University, struggled to maintain services because of funding difficulties. Over the past several months, I worked closely with SEMO crime lab Director Pam Johnson and Senator Rob Mayer (R-Dexter, MO) to establish a long-term solution to the issue.

What we came up with is a plan that transfers control of the lab to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. First and foremost, the move will provide the lab a stable source of funding. For state and area law enforcement agencies, the consolidation will streamline operating procedures, which will help reduce the backlog of evidence. The state's investment in the move is \$586,000 and is part of a statewide reorganization of crime labs, the goal of which is to improve law enforcement efforts that will make our state safer.

Southeast Missouri Center for Autism

I am again pleased to announce that the budget includes \$200,000 in grant funding for a community-based autism center in Southeast Missouri. In January of this year, I announced that the Department of Economic Development had awarded the grant to the Cape Girardeau-based Tailor Institute. The program developed by the Tailor Institute will study the capabilities of 'high-functioning' autistic individuals, and develop services for this segment of the autistic community.

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>.

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