



MISSOURI SENATE

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Sen. Jason Crowell Applauds Governor Blunt's Signature of Budget Bills Benefiting 27th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY—Sen. Jason Crowell, (R-Cape Girardeau) announced today he is pleased Gov. Matt Blunt recently signed the 2007 fiscal year's state budget, which goes into effect on July 1. Sen. Crowell, was instrumental in securing funding for various entities and capital improvements in the 27th Senate District.

Below is a synopsis of the appropriations:

Elementary and Secondary Education

Lawmakers last year wrote a new foundation formula that distributes funds more equitably based on the needs of students, not local tax rates. This year the Legislature followed through on its promise and fully funded the formula by adding an additional \$142 million to K-12 funding. Under the FY 2007 budget, school districts in the area will receive nearly \$70 million, almost a 10 percent increase from 2006.

Parkview State School

Sen. Crowell helped secure funding to build a new playground at Parkview State School for the Severely Handicapped. The Cape Girardeau school will receive \$100,000 to go toward specialized playground equipment. Nearly 40 children from five surrounding counties attend Parkview State School. The playground would include wheelchair swings, slides, ramped pavilions and an accessible basketball court.

The Career & Technology Center

The Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center was allotted \$750,00 to expand its current facilities. The expansion, which was necessary due to increased enrollment and employer demand, will include five additional classrooms to be utilized for electronics and industry training, community-education programming and higher education institutions.

Southeast Missouri State University

The governor also signed into law a 2-percent increase for universities and community colleges, the first significant higher education funding boost in years. For Southeast Missouri State University, this translates into a funding increase of close to \$1 million, bringing its total funding to \$44.7 million.

Southeast Missouri Center for Autism

The budget includes \$200,000 in grant funding for a community-based autism services in Southeast Missouri for a two year total of \$400,000. In January of this year, the Department of Economic Development 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.

OTHER DISTRICT APPROPRIATIONS:

- \$1.3 million for a new 17-bed sexually violent predator treatment unit at the Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center.
- More than \$750,000 for area state parks and historic sites
- \$200,000 for SEMO Innovation Center
- More than \$7 million for Cape Girardeau Veterans Home
- \$11.6 million for Southeast Correctional Center
- \$1.6 million for Sikeston Regional Center
- \$2.7 million for Cottonwood Residential Treatment Center

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