



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Meets With Area Parents as Teachers Representatives

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, recently welcomed to the state Capitol members of Parents as Teachers, a national organization promoting early childhood learning. Representatives from Gasconade and Osage counties joined Barnitz on Feb. 28.

“The Parents as Teachers program offers a multitude of valuable educational resources for young children,” Barnitz said. “It was a pleasure meeting with these active participants from the 16th District.”

Raylene Holrah and Barbara Zerr of the Gasconade County R-I School District in Hermann, Ruth Rebmann and Susan Zelch of the Gasconade County R-II School District in Owensville, and Cathy Borgmeyer and Patricia Brown of the Osage County R-III School District in Westphalia joined Barnitz in the Capitol.

Parents as Teachers, a national network based in St. Louis, focuses on educating parents about child development to better prepare children for school. Studies have repeatedly shown that family involvement in early childhood learning is instrumental in fully developing academic skills such as reading and writing.

The program began in 1981 with funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation. Because of the progress it was making in our schools, the state provided funding in 1985 to expand the program to all Missouri school districts. Parents as Teachers is now in all 50 states and other countries.

“All Missourians should be proud that their state has been a leader in early childhood development,” Barnitz said. “By informing parents of all the benefits of reading to our youngsters and enrolling them in preschool, Parents as Teachers provides our children with invaluable opportunities.”

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Sen. Frank Barnitz (center) meets with area Teachers as Parents members (from left) Susan Zelch, Barbara Zerr, Raylene Holrah, Patricia Brown, Cathy Borgmeyer and Ruth Rebmann. A JPEG of the image is attached. If you have trouble with the photo, contact Senate Communications at (573) 751-3824 or twarren@senate.mo.gov.

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