



MISSOURI SENATE

Rob Mayer
25th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 331
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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Contact: Irene Murray
(573) 751-3859

Sen. Mayer Praises Judge's Decision Upholding School Funding Formula

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, is applauding a decision by a Cole County judge today to uphold the constitutionality of the re-vamped Foundation Formula for public schools in the state. Judge Richard Callahan has dismissed claims that, under the 2005 formula, the state is failing to meet constitutional requirements to provide an adequate and equitable education.

“I’m pleased the court has seen the validity of the formula that we have used for the past three years to put about \$500 million dollars extra into our public schools’ coffers during that time,” said Sen. Mayer, the new chairman of the Senate Education Committee. “The education of our children is my highest priority, and I’m glad the courts agree that we are doing the right thing.”

School districts across the state had challenged the formula on the basis that they believed it did not meet the requirement that the state spend 25 percent of its budget equitably on public education. On the question of equity, the judge in the case said the Foundation Formula meets the constitutional requirement. A separate hearing on whether the new formula meets the 25 percent requirement is scheduled for September 20th.

“Today’s ruling is a victory for the constitutional right of the legislature to appropriate money as it sees fit — not appropriating from some judge’s bench,” said Sen. Mayer. “But more importantly, this is a victory for our school children so they can continue to enjoy the benefits the increased funding we have given them will continue to improve their educations and, ultimately, their lives.”

Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.