



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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## Missouri's Budget

### *State Funding Goes to Projects in Southeast Missouri*

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One of the most important tasks that the General Assembly completes every session is the state budget. The spending plan appropriates taxpayer money throughout the state to various departments and projects. Last week, the Senate approved the 13 House bills that make up the \$21.4 billion budget for fiscal year 2008, starting on July 1, 2007.

This week, my colleagues from the Senate and House are discussing the budget in a series of conferences in order to work out any differences. After the budget receives final approval from both bodies, it will move to the governor's desk for his signature before becoming law. The deadline to pass the budget is May 11.



*Pictured with Senator Crowell are Adam Prasanphanich and family of Cape Girardeau. Adam, who is a student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, attended the Undergraduate Research Day at the State Capitol on April 17<sup>th</sup> and presented his research project.*

This session, education has been a legislative priority, and this is reflected in the budget. Elementary and secondary education will receive an increase of \$189.4 million, with \$132.6 million for the new school funding formula. Over the past three years we have continued to increase the amount that our schools receive by more than \$500 million. Higher education will receive a \$106 million increase resulting in Southeast Missouri State University receiving over \$46.5 million.

This is an increase from last year's budget by \$1.9 million. A \$20 million increase in scholarship funding will make higher education accessible to more students. Adding this increased funding to the \$25 million approved through Lewis and Clark Initiative and higher education scholarship funding in the state reaches approximately \$70 million.

An additional appropriations bill, House Bill 17, provides for several capitol projects for Southeast. This includes \$173,000 for a dental hygiene clinic, \$4.5 million for a conservation- and environmental-based business incubator, and \$17.2 million for a Visual and Performing Arts School on the River Campus. I am especially excited about an additional \$2.6 million that will go towards an autism education, research, diagnosis, and treatment center.

The budget also includes several other important funding increases. The Department of Health and Senior Services' budget will increase by 1.2 percent. That increase will provide for \$3.9 million in state-funded autism research. The Department of Economic Development will receive a 16.3 percent increase, supplying funds for a \$3.5 million increase for The Missouri Job Development Program. The Department of Agriculture will enjoy a 50.6 percent budget increase with the Missouri Qualified Biodiesel Producer Incentive Fund receiving \$20.7 million and \$15 million going to the Missouri Qualified Fuel Ethanol Producer Incentive Fund. Veterans will benefit from \$1.4 million to fund the War on Terror Unemployment Compensation Program and \$2.9 million to staff veteran's homes. This additional funding will allow for 150 beds to be added in our Missouri Veterans' Homes.



*Senator Crowell talks with 4<sup>th</sup> Graders from East Prairie Elementary during a pizza party held in their honor.*

## **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](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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