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Editorial/Commentary – *St. Louis Post Dispatch*

The former superintendent of the Riverview Gardens School District deserves more than just a slap on the wrist for his criminal actions that robbed the students, teachers, administrators and parents. Pleading “no contest” to a serious felony demands tough justice. Besides being guilty of a crime, Dr. Henry Williams’ criminal actions have broken the public trust, weakened the public’s faith in our public schools and caused a financial mess that cost the school district millions in state aid.

Dr. Williams should be required by the court to do more than just immediately return all monies that he stole from the school district. If a person robs a bank and is found guilty then jail time is almost always assured as a deterrent to future criminals. A Class B Felony carries jail time of 5 to 15 years and stealing more than \$25,000 is a B felony. During these troubled economic times theft and embezzlement should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Following a state audit, Dr. Williams was charged with a laundry list of crimes. Earlier this year, Dr. Williams admitted there was enough evidence to convict him of stealing more than \$26,000 dollars of property and services from the school district and three additional charges of attempting to evade income tax. The sentencing hearing for the former superintendent, Dr. Henry Williams, has been rescheduled for January 5.

Senator Timothy P. Green represents the 13th District in St. Louis County and resides in Spanish Lake.