



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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Providing for the New School Year

An Overview of Funding for the 2008-2009 School Year

Students throughout our area are gearing up for another exciting school year.

Funding for schools is my highest priority, and this year's budget reflects that dedication to making sure students in our state receive a world class education.



Funding education is the best investment Missouri can make in the future of our state. Over the past four years, we have been able to increase the funding that goes towards public education in Missouri by \$580 million. This was possible because we continue to create a budget that puts education first.

Three years ago, we created a fairer school funding formula to distribute state aid to individual schools based on student need, not property values. Under this new formula, funding for schools in Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi,

Perry, and Scott counties has increased by 16.82 percent, with a total of \$10.8 million in increases since fiscal year 2006.

We continue to increase funding for programs that benefit students in our community. Last year, 219 students in our area utilized the A+ Schools program, and even more students

will benefit from a \$3.5 million increase for the coming school year. Over the past four years, this brings the total increases to \$12.7 million. As of December 2007, 286 children in Southeast Missouri were using the Early Childhood Special Education Program. We have been able to institute \$2.5 million in increases for this program. Early education is an important part of a student's continuing success during a life-time of learning. We have increased funding for the Parents as Teachers program by \$4 million over the past four years.

Another important initiative for schools has been our focus on mathematics, engineering, technology and science (METS). This includes programs that expand access to advanced learning opportunities and high-tech education. This work has paid off with Missouri being one of only six states where fourth grade students raised their math scores.



The Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center provides career and technical education to the area. In January of 2007, the center began an expansion project. I secured \$750,000 to expand the facilities to accommodate increased enrollment. The funding provided for the construction of a 9,600-square-foot electrical shop and classroom building east of the current school.

Making sure that Missouri's children receive a world class education is our mission.

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 or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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