



For Immediate Release

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator Timothy P. Green (D-Spanish Lake) was successful in securing \$14 million in state funding for the Riverview Gardens School District. The District, confronted by an error in the state funding formula, has not received an appropriate amount of state-dollars to finance its operations.

“This legislation will assist the Riverview Gardens which is working to regain accreditation and improve its financial picture,” said Sen. Green on the Senate floor. Sen. Green was able to amend Senate Bill 291, adding the requirement that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recalculate the state funding formula to adequately fund the Riverview Gardens School District. The legislation is now making progress in the Missouri House this week.

“Funding for our schools is important to securing the future for our children,” said Rep. Gina Walsh (D-Bellefontaine Neighbors), further adding that “this funding formula error is unacceptable and should be fixed.” Rep. Walsh offered similar legislation, House Bill 542, in the House.

“Recalculation of state school aid would bring significant funds to our school district that will allow some of the services we expect to reduce to be maintained, and help our district regain accreditation,” said Dr. Natalie Thomas, Co- Superintendent of Riverview Gardens School District.

“In order to continue to strive toward excellence, the restored funds will enable us to provide safe and appropriate learning environments, maintain a highly qualified staff, and best instructional strategies and resources for our children,” said Dr. Rhonda M. Key, Co-Superintendent of Riverview Gardens School District.

The state funding formula was not the least of the district’s problems. Former Superintendent Henry Williams was recently convicted of misappropriating thousands of taxpayer dollars meant for Riverview Gardens.

“The criminal actions of convicted felon, former superintendent Dr. Henry Williams has had resounding negative effect on the students, parents and teachers in this district,” Sen. Green said, “Today in the Missouri Senate we took a step toward correcting Williams’ negligence and error.”

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