

Senator Kurt U. Schaefer
19th Senate District
Capitol Building, Room 226
Jefferson City, MO 65101



Senator David Pearce
31st Senate District
Capitol Building, Room 419
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Senators Schaefer and Pearce will be available to discuss the proposed increases to the Access Missouri Scholarship program with members of the press. Reporters can call-in or attend in person in Room 226.

Time: 3:00 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Contact: 1-866-603-9351

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2009

Missouri Students Could Benefit from More Needs-based Scholarships

Senators Schaefer and Pearce Co-Sponsor Enhanced Scholarship Legislation

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri students who currently qualify for the Access Missouri Scholarship program could see the amount of their needs-based scholarships grow thanks to legislation introduced today by Senator Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, and Senator David Pearce, R-Warrensburg. The measure, Senate Bill 390, would guarantee the current scholarship levels for public two-year and four-year institutions for the coming academic year and would increase the size of needs-based scholarships beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.

Schaefer and Pearce said they co-sponsored the bill to make college more affordable to more Missouri students.

“More than 30,000 Missouri students currently can better afford to go to college because of the assistance they get through the Access Missouri Scholarship program,” Schaefer said. “We must make sure that the scholarship amount we award keeps pace with the ever-increasing cost of college, so that money does not stand in the way of students getting their degree.”

“I support this legislation because it levels the playing field by treating students who attend public and private schools the same, unlike the current program,” Pearce said. “By removing winners and losers from the scholarship program and awarding equitable scholarships for four-year colleges, regardless of whether they are public or private, more students will be able to better afford college.”

The bill would continue to provide scholarships for students attending public two-year institutions in the amount of \$1,000 maximum and \$300 minimum. It would reduce the scholarship amount in the coming academic year for students attending private four-year colleges from a \$4,600 maximum and \$2,000 minimum, to match the current level students receive who attend public four-year colleges. In 2010-2011, it would increase scholarships for students attending public or private colleges and universities, including Linn State Technical College, from a maximum of \$2,150 and a \$1,000 minimum, to a maximum of \$2,850 and a minimum of \$1,500.

A summary as well as full text of the bill can be found by visiting www.senate.mo.gov and doing a keyword search for SB390. It will next be referred to a Senate Committee for consideration.

Conference Call with the Press

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