



May 7, 2009

A Thank You to Our Teachers

“The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called ‘truth’.” —Dan Rather

The first week in May is Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to ensure that teachers get the thanks they deserve. The week is an opportunity for our local teachers to be in the spotlight as students and parents acknowledge them for the work they do to give each child a world-class educational opportunity. Teachers are the backbone of our schools. They are the ones who teach our students the lessons that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

We have made great strides for public education in the past, and our work continues this year. Since 2005, on the state level, we have substantially increased funding to our local K-12 schools (see chart below for district-specific funding increases). Funding education is the best investment Missouri can make in the future of our state. Currently, the budget for fiscal year 2010, which begins on July 1, 2009, contains a \$2.6 million increase for schools in Southeast Missouri. This brings this year’s total state funding for our area schools to \$77.3 million, a 3.5 percent increase over the previous year.

**Foundation Formula
Funding to K-12 Schools***

District Name	FY05-FY10 Increase	Percent Increase
MEADOW HEIGHTS R-II	\$375,638	22.48%
LEOPOLD R-III	\$89,710	11.97%
ZALMA R-V	\$121,281	13.90%
WOODLAND R-IV	\$933,189	34.23%
JACKSON R-II	\$4,075,398	37.07%
DELTA R-V	\$126,041	11.01%
OAK RIDGE R-VI	\$415,589	30.60%
CAPE GIRARDEAU 63	\$1,158,116	21.39%
NELL HOLCOMB R-IV	\$373,566	46.46%
MARQUAND-ZION R-VI	\$118,119	15.39%
FREDERICKTOWN R-I	\$769,078	13.66%
EAST PRAIRIE R-II	\$1,117,221	33.76%
CHARLESTON R-I	\$844,681	23.57%
PERRY CO. 32	\$1,316,114	39.13%
ALTENBURG 48	\$93,864	41.66%
SCOTT CITY R-I	\$717,856	26.77%
SCOTT CO. R-II	\$390,937	23.79%
SCOTT CO. R-IV	\$623,478	20.39%
SCOTT CO. CENTRAL SCHOOLS	\$126,766	8.08%
SIKESTON R-VI	\$1,854,345	16.60%
KELSO C-7	\$22,497	8.40%
ORAN R-III	\$229,734	18.48%
TOTALS	\$15,893,218	24.74%

*As of April 27th, 2009, according to Senate Appropriations.

As we work in Jefferson City to ensure that teachers have the resources to do what they do best, we must remember that our schools couldn't be truly successful without their time and efforts. Teacher Appreciation Week is the time to show our appreciation to our teachers. Of course, these dedicated professionals deserve our thanks each and every day, but a quick "thank you" note or email this week only takes a moment to write, please join me in taking the time to thank a teacher.

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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