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August 7, 2009

Education Funding

Funding Increases for the 2009-2010 School Year

Students throughout our area are gearing up for another school year. Funding for schools is my highest budget priority, and this year's budget reflects that dedication to making sure students in our state receive a world class education opportunity. Funding education is the best investment Missouri can make in the future of our state. Since 2005, we have been able to substantially increase state funding for K-12 schools. Funding for classrooms statewide has increased by \$540 million. This year, we have continued our commitment to fully fund the school funding formula, adding \$63 million for public schools, without a tax increase. This was possible because we continue to craft a budget that puts education first.



Four years ago, we created a stronger school funding formula that distributes state aid to individual schools based on student need, not assessed property values. This is the fourth year in a row of meeting our promise to fully fund the new formula for K-12 students. Under this new formula, funding for schools in Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott

counties has increased by 20.28 percent, with a total of \$13 million in increases since fiscal year 2006. Our schools will receive \$77 million for this school year, a \$2.6 million increase over the previous year, which makes for a 3.5 percent increase.*

This school year also contains a unique funding opportunity for K-12 classrooms. One-time funding is available through federal stimulus dollars allocated through this year's budget. Our local schools will receive \$10.7 million in federal stimulus dollars. This one-time funding will go directly to school districts, which will have the opportunity to ultimately decide how to best utilize these dollars that will enrich every student's education. The disbursement of the funding is based on student assessment scores, socio-economic status of both the students and their communities, and percentages of students that fall within the appropriate benchmarks, along with numerous other variables. The \$10.7 million is based on a two-year allocation. School districts will submit a proposed spending plan for the funding to the Department of Secondary Education; the approved plan will set out the timing for the funding amounts received over the next two years.



Making sure that Missouri's children receive a world class education is our mission. Working always to make tomorrow just a little bit better than tomorrow.

*Funding estimates provided by Senate Appropriations based on average daily attendance averages as of May, 2009.

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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