

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2009

# STATEMENT

## **Sen. Shields Comments on Supreme Court Ruling Upholding School Funding Formula**

*High Court Says Formula has Rational Basis,  
Spending Meets Constitutional Requirements*

---

"Missouri's highest court today recognized that we are giving our children, no matter where they live, an equal opportunity for a great education based on the funding formula we passed in 2005. The Supreme Court found that the formula, which is based on students' needs rather than local wealth, has a rational basis. They also affirmed what Judge Callahan did more than two years ago, in finding we exceed the Constitutional requirement of spending more than 25% of the state's total budget on elementary and secondary education. This year, that total is more than \$4.4 Billion.

Since we created and passed the new formula, the General Assembly has been dedicated to fully funding it. In the four years of the phase-in, we have increased K-12 funding by \$444,959,181 without a tax increase.

This ruling should confirm to Missourians that we have taken the best steps possible to provide education opportunities for our children. I also hope it ends the wasteful abuse of school districts using more than \$6 million of taxpayer money to pay lawyers to sue the state rather than use it to pay for what is most important - teaching our children in our classrooms."

-Senate President Pro Tem Charlie Shields  
34<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

###