

MISSOURI SENATE

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**Office of State Senator Lauren Arthur
District 17 - Clay County**

**201 W. Capitol Ave. , Room 428
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101**

For more information, please contact Sen. Arthur's office at:

(573) 751-5282

lauren.arthur@senate.mo.gov

senate.mo.gov/Arthur

TRULY AGREED AND FINALLY PASSED

This report summarizes some of the legislation considered during the 2022 legislative session. The highlighted text denotes legislation sponsored by Sen. Arthur.

To view the entire list of bills that were Truly Agreed and Finally Passed, click [here](#).

Congressional Maps – [House Bill 2909](#)

Every 10 years, the Legislature is required to redraw Congressional districts to reflect population changes from the U.S. Census. Click [here](#) to view the new map.

KCPD Funding Increase – [Senate Bill 678](#)

Under current law, the city of Kansas City is required to provide one-fifth of its general revenue per fiscal year to fund the Kansas City Board of Police. This act increases such funding to one-fourth of the city's general revenue.

KCPD Constitutional Amendment – [Senate Joint Resolution 38](#)

Under the Hancock Amendment, the General Assembly cannot require a city to increase an activity or service beyond that required by existing law, unless a state appropriation is made to pay the city for any increased costs. This proposal provides an exception to allow for a law that increases minimum funding, if increased before Dec. 31, 2026, for a police force established by a state board of police commissioners to ensure they have additional resources to serve their communities. **Voters approved Constitutional Amendment Four on Nov. 8, affixing the new funding requirement in the Missouri Constitution.**

Voter ID & Elections – [House Bill 1878](#)

This act requires Missouri voters to present a government-issued photo ID to cast a ballot, includes provisions relating to election cyber security, prohibits the use of private money by election boards or commissions and allows a two-week window for in-person, no-excuse absentee voting.

2026 FIFA World Cup – [Senate Bill 652](#)

Beginning June 1, 2026, and ending July 31, 2026, this act authorizes a sales tax exemption for the sale of tickets to matches of the 2026 FIFA World Cup soccer tournament, held in Jackson County. This piece of legislation was an integral piece of Kansas City's bid to host the 2026 World Cup.

Comprehensive Child Care Legislation – [Senate Bill 683](#)

***Office of Childhood:** This bill contains provisions of my [Senate Bill 982](#) that authorize the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to manage child day care services instead of the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services (DSS). This bill also authorizes DESE to grant and manage licenses to operate child care facilities instead of the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

Day Camps: The bill adds a definition of "day camp" and exempts a day camp that is conducted primarily to provide recreation from having to obtain a license for a child care facility.

Child Care: The underlying bill excludes two related children, who are 5 and under, from the maximum number of children for which a family child care home is licensed. These children must be related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to, adopted by, or under court-appointed guardianship or legal custody of a child care provider who is responsible for the daily operation of a licensed family child care home organized as a legal entity in Missouri.

Youth Development Programs: Under current law, neighborhood youth development programs that provide activities to children ages 6 to 17 are exempt from child care licensure. This act changes the age range to 5 to 18.

Diligent Searches: This bill requires the Children's Division within DSS to make diligent searches for the biological parent or parents in a timely manner after a child is placed into its custody. Additionally, when an initial emergency placement of a child is deemed necessary, the Children's Division is to diligently search and locate grandparents for placement of the child.

Comprehensive Elementary & Secondary Education Legislation – [Senate Bills 681 & 662](#)
Provisions of my [Senate Bill 662](#) were added to this measure.

CURRICULUM

***Reading Intervention:** This bill focuses on improving literacy outcomes across Missouri. After years of pushing for this legislation, this bill finally passed as a result of intense collaboration amongst myself and a bipartisan group of women senators, with a great deal of help from key education stakeholders.

This policy initiative, the first of its kind for Missouri, will tackle the core issues of literacy education by placing an emphasis on evidence-based curriculum. Currently, many Missouri schools are still utilizing popular literacy programs that have been shown to be ineffective in the long-term, correlating to lower literacy rates and poor student outcomes. This initiative will use proven curriculum to level-set the literacy space across Missouri, giving teachers quality training to teach literacy, implementing quality reading assessments and interventions, providing additional funding and resources and utilizing the guidance of experts and key education stakeholders. To support these efforts, I successfully advocated for \$25 million for the newly established Literacy Fund.

***School Innovation Waivers:** The second underlying bill is my school innovation waiver bill that seeks to provide district schools with the flexibility to try innovative tactics to improve student readiness, increase teacher compensation and improve teacher recruitment, retention, training, preparation or professional development. The Missouri Board of Education will develop criteria and rules for the use of innovation waivers. They may grant school innovation waivers to exempt schools from requirements imposed by current law or regulations, with the exemption of any statutory requirements relating to teacher certification, teacher tenure or any requirement imposed by federal law. Waivers may last up to three years with the option to renew.

***Competency-Based Education & Show Me Success Diploma Program:** A priority of mine since I came to Jefferson City, this legislation enables schools to utilize a student-centered approach to education

known as competency-based education (CBE). Traditionally, school credits are awarded if a student has spent X number of hours in a seat or classroom. A teacher will give a test, a student will earn a grade and the classroom moves on to the next unit. However, some students will have yet to fully master or comprehend concepts from the previous unit before moving onto another unit, leaving those students at a disadvantage. Competency-based education programs provide students with the time and space to master a skill, at which point they will receive credit. This means students can learn at their own pace – some will learn a skill quickly and move on, others may need more time to practice, but the idea is that every student learns every skill to proficiency and then builds on it.

To support the model, this legislation does three things:

1. Creates a grant program to fund CBE programs;
2. Updates the funding mechanism so that school districts aren't punished for adopting this approach;
3. Creates a task force to push for CBE statewide;
4. Establishes the Show-Me Success Diploma program for students, an expedited degree program for students choosing CBE programs.

To support CBE, I successfully advocated for \$2 million to establish the Competency-Based Education Fund.

Imagination Library of Missouri: This act creates the "Imagination Library of Missouri Program" within DESE's Office of Childhood, a statewide program for encouraging preschool children to read.

Computer Science Courses: These provisions further integrate computer science into school beyond the typical computer science courses, allowing computer science credit for courses that implement aspects of computer science, creating requirements establishing a Computer Science Advisor and Task Force.

Braille Instruction: Establishes the "BRITE" Act governing Braille instruction and aligns visually impaired instruction with federal standards.

Holocaust Education: Under this act, the second week in April is now designated as "Holocaust Education Week." Holocaust education will include age-appropriate instruction to students in 6th grade and higher.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Gifted Children: Under this act, if 3% or more of students enrolled in a school district are identified as gifted, the district is required to establish a state-approved gifted program for gifted children.

Workforce Diploma Program: This act establishes the "Workforce Diploma Program" within DESE to assist students in obtaining a high school diploma and in developing employability and career and technical skills through campus-based, blended or online modalities.

Advanced Placement Exams Credit: Each institution, including in-state public community colleges, colleges or universities, that offers postsecondary freshman-level courses will adopt and implement a policy to grant undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students for each advanced placement

examination where a student achieves a score of 3 or higher for any similarly correlated course offered by the institution.

Adult High Schools: This law changes provisions governing adult high schools by allowing synchronous instruction connecting students to a live classroom in a Missouri adult high school to be treated the same as in-person learning and modifying the child care licensure requirements.

STUDENT HEALTH

Individualized Health Care Plans at Schools: This act establishes "Will's Law," requiring individualized health care plans to be developed by school nurses in public and charter schools. All school employees will be trained every two years in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Information: Beginning July 1, 2023, this new law requires public or charter schools with pupils in grades 7-12, as well as public institutions of higher education that issue student identification cards to print the 3-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988.

Mental Health Awareness Training: This new law establishes a mental health awareness training requirement for pupils in public and charter schools that will be given any time during a pupil's four years of high school. Instruction will be included in the district's existing health or physical education curriculum.

Recovery Programs for High School Students: Allows for the creation of four recovery high schools for eligible students diagnosed with a substance use disorder.

Get the Lead out of School Drinking Water: Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, and for each subsequent school year, each school will provide drinking water with a lead concentration below five parts per billion (5 ppb).

EDUCATORS

Teaching Certificates: This new law expands on the current licensing process for the visiting scholars teacher certification by allowing individuals to obtain a certification to teach if they are employed by a district as part of an initiative designed to fill vacant positions in hard-to-staff schools or subject areas.

Substitute Teaching: This new law creates a four-year certificate for individuals who want to substitute teach. Applicants for certification must complete a background check and also have at least 36 college hours or have completed a 20-hour online training.

Teacher Career Ladder: This new law modifies provisions regarding career ladder admission and stage achievement for teachers. This also increases the state percentage of funding for salary supplements for career ladder from 40% to 60% and lowers the number of years before a teacher is eligible from five to two years.

SCHOOL BOARDS AND ADMINISTRATION

School Board Community Engagement Policy: Before July 1, 2023, school districts and charter schools will adopt a community engagement policy based on community input that provides residents a method of communicating with the school's governing board. The policy creates a process for items related to educational matters to be added to the board agenda.

Public Schools and School Districts: This bill requires public schools and school districts that are in the bottom 5% on the APR scores to send a letter to parents informing the parents of potential options.

School Board Districts: This new law allows for any seven-director school district or an urban district to be divided into sub-districts, or a combination of sub-districts and at-large districts, and provides for the process for the election of sub-district board members.

School District Superintendent Sharing: Beginning July 1, 2023, this bill allows a school district that enters into an agreement with another district to share a superintendent to receive an additional \$30,000 per year in-state aid for up to five years. The bill directs districts to spend the additional compensation and half of the savings from sharing a superintendent on teacher salaries or counseling services.

Vehicles Used to Transport School Children: This act modifies a definition of "school bus" to include only vehicles designed for carrying more than 10 passengers.

Corporal Punishment: This act requires school districts to notify parents and receive written permission before using corporal punishment. The act repeals language related to the jurisdiction of the Children's Division within DSS and its ability to investigate reports of alleged child abuse by personnel of a school district, a teacher or other school employee. It also repeals language related to how a school and school district are to handle reports of alleged child abuse.

FUNDING

Dollar Value Modifier: Under this new law, the Gasconade County R-II, Maries County R-II and the West St. Francois County R-IV school districts, which all cross county lines, will each use the dollar value modifier of the county with the highest dollar value modifier.

Special Education Reimbursement: This states that any money reimbursed to a school district with 500 or fewer students is excluded from such calculation. This also specifies that a school district will submit the cost of serving any high-needs student with an IEP to DESE.

School District Residency Tuition Waiver: After July 1, 2023, this new law allows any person or a beneficiary of a trust who owns residential or agricultural real property for at least four years in any school district, and pays a school tax of at least \$2,000 in that district, may send up to four of such owner's or beneficiary's children to a school within that district.

Higher Education Legislation – [Senate Bill 718](#)

Historically Black and College University Week: Designates the third week of September as "Historically Black College and University Week" in Missouri.

***Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Scholarship:** This bill changes the Dual Credit Scholarship program to better serve students in need who choose to enroll in dual enrollment or dual credit courses. This legislation makes modifications to the program by providing funding to students via scholarships before the program begins, rather than after, removing an annual cap of \$500 for the amount a student can receive, providing scholarships for the full cost of tuition and creating a separate fund for the scholarship, which received \$7 million in the state budget for FY '23.

Medical Preceptorship Tax Credit: This provision authorizes a tax credit for serving as a community-based faculty preceptor for a medical student core preceptorship or a physician assistant student core preceptorship.

Career and Technical Education Aid: This measure creates a new process for students in technical or career education programs to apply for aid through the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Computer Science Courses: These provisions seek to further integrate computer science into school beyond the basic computer science courses, allowing computer science credit for courses that implement aspects of computer science, establishing requirements for the courses and creating a Computer Science Advisor and Task Force.

Name, Image and Likeness Rights: This bill allows any university staff to identify or assist student athletes with opportunities to earn compensation from a third party for the use of the student's name, image, likeness rights or athletic reputation.

Workforce Diploma Program: This act establishes the "Workforce Diploma Program" within DESE to assist students in obtaining a high school diploma and in developing employability and career and technical skills through campus-based, blended or online modalities.

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Information: Beginning July 1, 2023, this act requires public or charter schools with pupils in grades 7-12, as well as public institutions of higher education that issue student identification cards, to print the 3-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988.

Advanced Placement Exam Credit: Each in-state public community college, college or university that offers postsecondary freshman-level courses shall adopt and implement a policy to grant undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students for each advanced placement examination where a student achieves a score of three or higher for any similarly correlated course offered by the institution.

Bankruptcy Exemptions: This legislation also provides bankruptcy protection for the Missouri Education Savings Program and the Missouri Higher Education Deposit Program. This limits the protection to proceedings filed or on appeal after Jan. 1, 2022, and only for designated beneficiaries that are lineal descendants of the account owner.

Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights – [Senate Bill 775](#)

Previously, sexual assault survivors had rights relating to how a criminal investigation regarding a sexual assault was conducted. This new law provides that sexual assault survivors retain these rights regardless of whether a criminal investigation or prosecution results or if he or she has previously waived any of these rights.

Environmental Regulation – [House Bill 2485](#)

This new law prohibits the state from adopting hazardous waste management regulations that are stricter than federal regulations and authorizes the use of recycled asphalt shingles and “advanced recycling” practices that produce hazardous chemical byproducts.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

Self-Defense – [Senate Bill 666](#)

This would have created a legal presumption that a person who uses physical or deadly force acted in self-defense and would be “immune from criminal prosecution or civil action.”

Initiative Petition Process – [House Joint Resolution 79](#)

This proposed constitutional amendment would have amended the Missouri Constitution to achieve a two-thirds supermajority vote for passage, rather than the current threshold of a simple majority. Additionally, the resolution would have increased the number of signatures needed to place a law or constitutional amendment on the ballot, making the threshold nearly impossible to meet.

Medicaid Expansion – [House Joint Resolution 117](#)

This proposal would have repealed a provision of the Missouri Constitution prohibiting any greater or additional burdens or restrictions on eligibility or enrollment standards, methodologies or practices be placed on the Medicaid expansion population. With that section repealed, the resolution would then make funding for MO HealthNet contingent upon the General Assembly appropriating funds to the eligible Medicaid population. I believe this added step would likely be mired by the political whims of the General Assembly, despite voters approving the funding of Medicaid expansion.

Transgender Children – [Senate Bills 781](#) and [SB 843](#)

Two specific bills unfairly targeted the transgender community, especially transgender children, in my opinion. Senate Bill 781 attempted to ban transgender girls and women from competing in girls and women’s sports, despite the fact that the majority of athletic governing bodies, i.e. NCAA and MSHSAA, have developed their own policies regarding transgender athletes. Additionally, SB 843 would have prohibited gender-affirming care for children, claiming that children can not comprehend the gravity of such procedures. However, research shows gender-affirming care benefits transgender children and improves their mental health.

Sports Betting – [Senate Bill 643](#)

Sports betting has been a topic of debate for years. Legalized sports betting could generate tens of millions of dollars in revenue for investments in education, infrastructure and other state services. This

year, legislators initially sought to separate sports wagering from Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) legislation, but it did not pass, despite days of negotiations and a compromise bill.

Critical Race Theory – Various

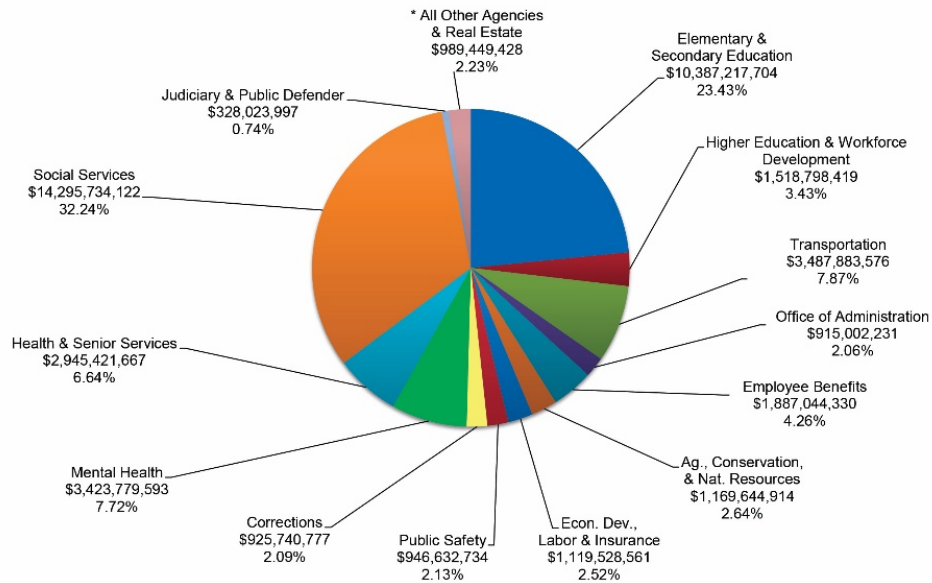
A number of bills targeting topics deemed “divisive,” such as racism and sexism, sought to prohibit the teaching of certain topics, like Critical Race Theory, and prioritize materials that create “positive” views of Missouri and America. The practical implications of these provisions would have prevented teachers from educating students about critical historical events, such as the Holocaust, women’s suffrage, civil rights and more. I believe some of these bills also sought to prohibit students from learning about and experiencing direct advocacy efforts, such as writing to their elected officials, further weakening our students’ and future leaders’ understanding of the democratic process.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

“With record-setting revenue and federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, I advocated for responsible, strategic investments in our state services and infrastructure that have been long overdue. These generational investments will benefit our state for decades and allow us to better serve Missourians each and every day.”

-Senator Lauren Arthur

FISCAL YEAR 2023 TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET AFTER VETO BY DEPARTMENT All Funds: \$44.340 Billion



* Includes: Revenue, Elected Officials, General Assembly, and Statewide Real Estate

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS FOR MISSOURI

- Increased base pay for state workers, including direct service providers for our state's most vulnerable
- Increased teachers base salary to \$38,000
- Invested in the Missouri State Employee Retirement System
- Fully funded Medicaid
- Fully funded Missouri's public schools and school transportation

SENATOR ARTHUR'S BUDGET ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Statewide Programs & Initiatives

- Competency-Based Education Fund - \$2 million
- Literacy Fund - \$25 million
- Office of the Public Defender - 24 additional support staff

Advocated for \$38,925,000+ for the Kansas City Metro Area

- Clay County Parenting Court - \$50,000
- Northland Career Center - \$30 million
- International flights out of MCI - \$5 million
- LaunchKC - \$200,000
- Mattie Rhodes - \$500,000
- KC Child Protection Center - \$650,000
- The Folly Theater - \$400,000
- Kansas City Ballet - \$625,000
- Starlight Theater - \$2 million

STAYING INVOLVED IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Your participation is vital to the success of our representative democracy. Below are some tips for staying involved:

- Subscribe to my [E-Newsletter](#);
- Track [legislation](#) as it progresses in both chambers;
- Testify at [hearings](#) to share your story and opinions;
- Offer to be your legislator's resource in your area of expertise;
- Bookmark my [website](#) to find resources and monitor the progress of my bills.

It is an honor representing our community in the Missouri Senate. If you have ideas to improve our district or state, please contact my office. My team is at your service!

