



School Funding

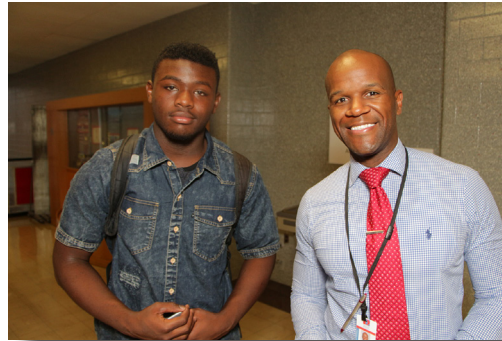
School funding should be a priority for state and federal leadership as it impacts a district's ability to meet goals across all other areas. Funding continues to be one of the more complex and challenging issues, requiring unwavering focus on the needs of Missouri's public school children. With today's economic downturn, we must advocate even more strongly for assurances that our public schools will receive adequate funding to ensure quality educational opportunities for our students.

1. Fully fund the state foundation formula and redefine the state adequacy target calculation to provide no less than a two percent increase each time it is recalculated.
2. Reject legislation that authorizes tuition tax credits, tuition deductions, educational scholarships, vouchers, or any effort to reduce or divert revenue from public schools.
3. Reject legislation that authorizes open enrollment without a) providing adequate State funding or inter-District monetary transfers to fully reimburse Districts for student transfers, b) facilitating local District control in matters involving building capacity, and c) providing temporary relief from DESE evaluation standards for Districts who are recipients of transfers from provisionally accredited or non-accredited Districts.
4. Support legislation that would provide funding for school based mental health services for students.
5. Support legislation that mandates accurate and consistent real property assessment practices.
6. Support legislation that requires unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any tax abatement project. If unanimous support cannot be achieved, the issue should be put to a vote of the people in the affected taxing jurisdictions.
7. Support legislation stipulating the enactment of sound and timely property tax assessment practices and clarification of assessment terms and timelines to promote uniformity and fairness of property tax assessments.



Teaching and Learning

Learning for each student is our primary purpose. With this in mind, we must advocate for the resources, programs, and flexibility necessary to ensure that students and teachers have adequate resources to allow us to meet this obligation. Emphasis on legislative change at both state and federal levels is necessary to assist school districts in their quest to provide the appropriate opportunities, both enrichment and intervention included, to meet the needs of each student.



1. Support legislation that provides additional funding for Parents as Teachers and expand Early Childhood Education.
2. Support a comprehensive statewide system of services for children with Autism Spectrum disorders in order to enhance the educational opportunities available to include: state-funded training for early childhood educators, expansion of early childhood services, coordination of services provided by state and local political subdivisions, and development of best practice guidelines and training for effective educational assessments and interventions.



Teaching and Learning continued

3. Support legislation that will assist state and local efforts to eliminate the disparity in student achievement between ethnic and socioeconomic groups of students, including providing the necessary financial support.
4. Support legislation and regulatory changes to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that:
 - Eliminate unnecessary administrative process requirements.
 - Maintain a safe learning environment for all students and staff.
 - Provide full funding of federal and state commitments to special education programs.



School Accreditation and Transfers

1. Support legislative efforts to recognize that transferring students from one district to another does not improve schools, nor does it revitalize communities and in fact creates financial hardships for sending and receiving districts as well as burdens on tax payers
2. Support bold action to empower leaders and strengthen communities who have failing schools and districts through a series of steps toward regaining accreditation.





Governance

Missouri public education goals can best be achieved when the locally elected community representatives on the school board have final authority over policies and practices impacting teaching and learning. It is important that we maintain



the school boards' local control of school districts and the educational programs provided.

1. Support legislation that maintains local control by boards of education, including decisions related to the use of revenues and types of programs provided, in order to meet the existing needs within individual public school districts.
2. Support legislation that defines comprehensive ethics reform.
3. Support legislation to protect existing retirement benefits, including 25 and Out, and Rule of 86, to ensure the long-term solvency of the Public School Retirement System and Public Education Employee Retirement System and guarantee broad based stakeholder input, including school board members, into decisions of the PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees.
4. Oppose legislation allowing anyone to carry a concealed firearm into a higher education institution or elementary or secondary school if he or she has a valid concealed carry endorsement or permit.



Quality School Facilities



All students deserve the opportunities that exist in a state-of-the-art facility. State funded assistance for facility replacements, improvements, and/or construction, along with greater opportunities for locally-funded support are needed.

1. Support constitutional amendments that allow a simple majority passage for public school general obligation bonds and increase the school district bonding capacity.
2. Support legislation that establishes state and federal funding for school districts for the renovation and construction of school facilities.
3. Support constitutional amendments that allow a school district to increase bonding capacity from 15 to 20%.

Our Mission
Raytown Quality Schools: a unified learning community leading individuals to achieve the exceptional.



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2018

The Raytown School District is known for the exceptional graduates it produces, for its long-standing support from the community, and for its efforts toward continuous improvement. The ability to focus on the individual needs of students and to promote a strong education agenda cannot be left to chance, and it is our responsibility to advocate for what is best for public school children and the children in the Raytown C-2 Schools. It is with this best interest in mind that we propose the following areas of emphasis in legislation:



- *School Funding
- *Teaching and Learning
- *Governance
- *Quality School Facilities

EXPECT THE EXCEPTIONAL