**JC/DC ACTION ALERT: State Budget Action Alert**

The House Budget Committee recently released their budget proposal. Missouri PTA, along with other members of the Education Roundtable, are concerned this budget will short-change our students.

Education is a crucial infrastructure component not only affecting the students in the building but the economy as a whole. Two of the top considerations by a business when considering the city they want their business to be located in are: is there access to a quality workforce; and is this a great place for people to raise their families.

*Dear Representative,*

*As a constituent and an advocate for our public schools and for opportunity and equity for every child, I would like to impress upon you that the funding for our public schools should be given a high priority in the legislature this session.*

*The plan approved by the House Budget Committee gives a false sense to schools and community members of increases in allocations for the funding formula. An additional investment of at least $61 million in the formula is needed or school districts could actually loose funding due to changes to the funding formula imposed by the legislature two years ago. Current economic environmental factors, such as the recent declines in the stock market, could adversely affect revenue. The committee’s proposition of establishing a “surplus revenue fund”, only accessible if revenue grows by more than 3.1%, would result in the withholding of millions of dollars from our children’s education.*

*PTA believes, in order to provide equitable education, the state government should contribute 50% of the funding. More importantly, education is a crucial infrastructure component not only affecting the students in the building but the economy as a whole. A quality workforce and a good place to raise children tops the list of factors considered when businesses decide where to locate. Both of these factors can be linked to the education system in that community.*

*By focusing on making sure all students in our public schools have the resources they need to develop the skills required for global economy Missouri will benefit not only in the short-term but the long-term.*

*Sincerely,*

*You name and PTA*

Not sure how to contact your state legislators? [Click here](http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx) and insert your street address or 9-digit zip code.

 **Dorothy Gardner**

Missouri PTA

President Elect

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