

## **ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS**

- WHEREAS, There are currently in excess of 550,000 children enrolled in the public elementary schools of Missouri; and
- WHEREAS, These children constitute the next generation of adult citizens in this state; and
- WHEREAS, These children currently face, or will face in adolescence, personal and social problems related to lack of basic skills, irregular attendance, drug abuse, increased crime rates at younger ages, and complicated and changing social patterns; and
- WHEREAS, The success of 115,000 children currently enrolled in special remedial and developmental education programs in Missouri is largely dependent on proper identification, prescriptive planning and assessment by trained personnel; and
- WHEREAS, Parents and regular school staff members need to cooperate in providing a healthy home, school and community climate for these children during these critical years; and
- WHEREAS, The professional elementary school counselor is trained for and dedicated to the seeking solutions to these and other related problems through the provisions of preventative and developmental services and programs; and
- WHEREAS, These children are served by fewer than one professional counselor for more than 1,600 pupils; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, urge the State Board of Education and the Governor of Missouri to recommend to the General Assembly for speedy enactment, such laws as will require the provision of at least one counselor within each public elementary attendance unit and to fully fund this program above the school foundation formula, (See 1976 resolution "Priorities for Foundation Formula Funding"); and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers urges the General Assembly to speedily appropriate, on a continued basis, such funds as will significantly assist each local school district in meeting the requirement of providing at least one counselor within each elementary attendance unit; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to appropriate members of the House and Senate, to the Governor and to members of the State Board of Education.

Adopted 1979