We believe public education serves as the cornerstone to the success of our state and country.

We believe an effective public education system is a critical component to economic development in our community.

We believe all schools should be held to high and rigorous standards that develop the full potential of every child.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We support the full funding of the foundation formula and transportation categorical.

We support the implementation of early childhood funding through the formula, as set out in state statute, and increased funding for the Parents as Teachers program.

We support the current constitutional authority and structure of the State Board of Education that allows for independent decision-making based on the best interests of Missouri’s public school students.

We oppose tax cuts or tax credit expansion that would reduce short-term or long-term state or local revenue, unless the foundation formula and transportation categorical are fully funded.

We oppose legislation that would divert revenue from public schools to non-public educational entities.

We oppose legislation that erodes the authority of local school boards and underroutes the voice of local voters.

STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Accountability

We support adequate and equitable public school pre-kindergarten through 12th grade state and federal funding to allow all students in every school district the opportunity to achieve state and federal student performance standards.

We support ensuring the foundation formula continues to be fully funded.

We support a plan to fully fund the transportation formula.

We support legislation that will provide adequate funding and technical support to all school districts so they may offer quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten education programs, including the Parents as Teachers program.

We support legislation to require the state to fully fund the costs of state and/or federally mandated student assessment programs.

We support legislation creating reasonable standards for tax credit programs, ensuring accountability and capping the potential reduction of state revenue.

We support increasing state general revenue by bringing certain taxes on tobacco, e-cigarettes, imitation tobacco or cigarette products, alcohol and alcohol-related products, and internet sales to a level consistent with the national average.

We urge the general assembly to strengthen laws controlling tax abatement programs to allow school districts to have greater control over their duly authorized revenue sources. These tax abatement programs include, but are not limited to, Chapter 100, Chapter 353, tax increment financing, and the Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act.
SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS is Missouri's largest school district, which serves 25,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12. SPS is committed to ensuring all students have engaging, relevant and personal learning experiences that positively impact academic achievement and personal growth.

SPS has about 4,000 employees, making it Springfield’s third largest employer.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

We support the careful monitoring of the implementation of the reauthorization of ESEA to ensure that rules and regulations developed are consistent with the intent to return control to the state.

We support full funding of federal commitments to special education programs and Title programs. At a minimum, the federal government should meet its promise of providing 40 percent of the average cost of educating special-needs students.

We support full federal funding of school-based Medicaid services.

We oppose federal mandates, incentives or other federal support for states to initiate or expand charter schools unless those charter schools are sponsored by a public school board and are subject to the same accountability measures as public schools.

We oppose federal mandates, incentives or other federal support for states to initiate or expand the use of vouchers, tax credits, deductions for tuition and related educational expenses, and other similar initiatives to support non-public K–12 schools.

We oppose unfunded or underfunded state mandates.

We stand against the divergence of state funds from public schools by any means (e.g. tuition tax credits, vouchers, and education savings accounts).

We support only those charter schools that are authorized by local boards of education and subject to the same accountability standards as other Missouri public schools.

We support virtual education options provided by other entities when such courses are rigorous, courses are taught by Missouri-certified teachers or qualified college professors, the curriculum is aligned to Missouri learning standards, and the course and provider are approved by the local school board as part of the public school district curriculum.

We oppose state mandates for a public school district to pay for or accept credit from virtual education providers that are not approved by the local school board.

We support providing a safe, orderly and supportive learning environment, which is an essential part of student success.

We support local autonomy in the development of curriculum goals and objectives.

We support the elimination of unnecessary laws, regulations and rules that inhibit local boards of education from establishing innovative educational programs or restrain local school district budget development.

CONNECT WITH US

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