

2018 Legislative Platform



The Lee's Summit R-7 School District is one of Missouri's largest school districts based on student enrollment and population with the district's boundaries spanning Lee's Summit, Greenwood, Lake Lotawana and Lake Winnebago as well as unincorporated areas of Jackson County and a small portion of Blue Springs and Kansas City. The rapidly growing district's population is diverse in many respects.

The Lee's Summit R-7 Board of Education's 2018 Legislative Platform reflects this diversity and is crafted to enable district leaders and constituents to work proactively and constructively with elected officials as well as regulators. Our goal is to achieve the best possible public policy supporting pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade education for our students while emphasizing our mission -- to prepare each student for success in life.

During the 2018 legislative session, we will engage with elected officials as well as regulators to discuss implications of policy proposals as they are introduced and considered. If you are interested in becoming more engaged in this process, please sign up for our advocacy newsletter by visiting <http://tiny.cc/ii8cpy>.

Key Legislative Priorities

- **Support** appropriations to fully fund the Missouri Foundation Formula and maintain the integrity of the existing Formula. This includes full funding of early childhood education through increased appropriation in the Formula as well as ensuring there are no decreases to the Formula's State Adequacy Target.
- **Support** increased school board oversight of income tax credit program reform and comprehensive corporate income tax credit program reform.
- **Oppose** legislation that impairs or reduces the authority of local school boards and their ability to be accountable to district stakeholders.
- **Oppose** K-12 withholdings to balance the state budget.
- **Oppose** efforts to adopt vouchers, tuition tax credits and scholarship tax credits, all of which would reduce revenue needed to fully fund the Foundation Formula.
- **Support** establishment of a visiting scholar certificate for teaching.
- **Support** legislation that requires all charter schools to be held to the same standards as public schools, including determination of accreditation status with tax funds designated for charter schools placed under control of a publicly elected board.
- **Support** legislation to expand the state's A+ program to include funding for tuition for high-school students earning qualifying dual college credit during their high-school years.

Additional Legislative Issues

- **Support** fully funding the transportation formula, including modifying the provision that penalizes school districts when they transport highly mobile students back to their original school of attendance.
- **Support** the creation and development of a system of interventions and support that leads to improvements in achievement for provisionally accredited and unaccredited school districts.
- **Support** legislation that requires the unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any tax abatement project or otherwise provide an opt-out provision.
- **Support** the full funding of education mandates in accordance with the Missouri constitution.
- **Support** the continuation of existing property tax relief for senior citizens within reasonable income limitations as well as legislation stipulating the enactment of sound and timely property tax assessment practices.
- **Support** funding for intensive professional development that provides a comprehensive and sustainable approach to improving district staff members' effectiveness in raising student achievement.
- **Support** the provision of a simple majority for the passage of local school district bond issues as well as increasing the bonding capacity for school districts.
- **Support** legislation that provides for continuing flexibility with MSIP resource and process standards, salary compliance and the professional development allocation.
- **Oppose** legislation which reduces the benefits provided by the current state public school retirement systems (PSRS and PEERS).
- **Oppose** legislation that authorizes any statewide mandate regarding open enrollment.
- **Oppose** any legislation that would reduce summer school funding.
- **Oppose** legislation that sets percentages for school district fund balances.
- **Oppose** any amendment to the Missouri Constitution to allow the distribution of state monies directly or indirectly to non-public educational entities or organizations.