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COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



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OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

2023

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



Representing Over 181,000 Missouri Children



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City, the unifying agent in our commitment to all students, is to strengthen our educational community through collaborative partnerships, innovative learning opportunities, collective advocacy, and high-quality resources necessary for students to thrive.

KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Support legislation that promotes **equitable and inclusive educational opportunities** in service to our diverse learners.

Support local control when it comes to decisions regarding the **health, wellbeing and safety** of students and the educational policies for such students within the school district.

Support **increasing overall state funding**, per pupil, in an effort to make Missouri rank in the top one-half of all states in the country in support of K-12 education.

Support a line-item appropriation of state funding for **safety measures** for local school districts to protect students from harm and/or violence.

Support funding **early childhood education** through an increased appropriation to the Foundation Formula and to increase the SAT paid on the formula.

Support legislation that requires **all charter schools and MOCAP approved virtual programs** to be held to the same standards as all public schools with accreditation status and funding falling under the jurisdiction of the local school district. We support a cap on the amount of money paid to a for-profit virtual education provider per credit hour to the cost of what a school district is paying for their in-district virtual school provider per credit hour.

Support legislation that requires equal representation and the unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any **Economic Development Incentive Project** (TIF, CH-100, CH-353, et al.) or otherwise provide an opt-out provision.

Ongoing Legislative Issues **SUPPORT**

- **SUPPORT** local school district authority to make the decisions about matters including, but not limited to, employee compensation and working conditions; class sizes; curriculum and instruction materials; virtual course access; professional development; program and employee evaluations; and school calendar.
- **SUPPORT** maintaining the integrity of the current Foundation Formula, while increasing and providing appropriations for fully funding the foundation formula, transportation formula, summer school, and early childhood education.
- **SUPPORT** maintaining full funding of 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** the full funding of education mandates in accordance with the Missouri Constitution. **SUPPORT** funding early childhood education through an increased appropriation to the foundation formula and to increase the SAT paid on the formula.
- **SUPPORT** legislation stipulating the enactment of accurate and timely property tax assessment practices and the clarification of assessment terms and timelines to promote uniformity and fairness of property tax assessments.

- **SUPPORT** funding for professional development that provides both a comprehensive and sustainable approach to improving district personnel effectiveness toward raising student achievement.
- **SUPPORT** the provision of a simple majority vote for the passage of local school district bond issues.
- **SUPPORT** increasing the bonding capacity for school districts.
- **SUPPORT** the ability to make an internal transfer of levy from debt service levy to operating property tax levy with ballot language that states that the adjusted property tax levy stays the same.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that advances innovative instructional approaches in PK-12 public education such as competency-based education, alternative assessment practices, Real World Learning opportunities, and workforce credentialing.
- **SUPPORT** workforce development and strongly support the recruitment and retention of public-school professional/certified and classified staff. We also recommend and support additional funding for increased teacher and support staff salaries.
- **SUPPORT** and appreciate our local school boards for the time and dedication they provide to school districts. We support the continuation of non-partisan school board elections and continued April elections for school board members.
- **SUPPORT** state funding for school districts that would provide resources to help counter the effects of homelessness, health issues, and other social services.
- **SUPPORT** expansion of statewide broadband so all students have access to high-speed internet services.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that will improve and maintain the integrity of the Missouri Lottery which has funded and continues to help fund K-12 education in Missouri.

Ongoing Legislative Issues **OPPOSE**

- **OPPOSE** any legislation or proposals that would divert public monies or resources from the public schools to non-public educational entities.
- **OPPOSE** legislation which reduces the benefits provided by the current state public school retirement systems (PSRS and PEERS).
- **OPPOSE** legislation or proposals that authorizes any mandate regarding open enrollment.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that sets percentages for school district fund balances.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that would alter the basic governance structure of the Missouri State High School Activities Association.
- **OPPOSE** any amendment to the Missouri Constitution to allow the distribution of state monies directly or indirectly to non-public educational entities or organizations.
- **OPPOSE** any legislation or proposal that would expand charter schools statewide unless, and only if, a neutral party conducts a feasibility / sustainability study, and the locally elected school board is the sole sponsor.