

DRAFT

St. Joseph School District Board of Education

Resolution Supporting Policies that Protect Local Control and Strengthen Missouri Public Education

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph School District Board of Education is responsible for governing the district and advocating for the educational interests of the students, families, and community it serves; and

WHEREAS, public education is a foundational public good that prepares students for civic participation, workforce readiness, and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Missouri public schools serve all students regardless of background, income level, disability status, or educational need; and

WHEREAS, state legislative and executive actions significantly affect the funding, governance, accountability systems, and operational capacity of local school districts; and

WHEREAS, locally elected school boards provide critical oversight and accountability to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, several legislative proposals and policy initiatives currently under consideration may significantly affect Missouri public school districts, including their funding, governance, and accountability systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Joseph School District Board of Education affirms its commitment to protecting strong public schools, preserving local control of school districts, and ensuring that education policy decisions prioritize the needs of students and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board has significant concerns regarding several current proposals that may negatively affect local school governance, district funding, or the accurate evaluation of school performance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully urges Missouri's elected officials to oppose legislation and policy proposals that would weaken public education, reduce local control of school districts, or create accountability systems that do not accurately reflect the complexity of student learning and school performance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these concerns include, but are not limited to, the following proposals currently under discussion:

- **House Bill 2668** – legislation affecting property tax calculations that may limit local revenue growth for school districts and affect long-term financial stability for public schools.
- **House Bill 1998** – legislation proposing changes related to the governance and administrative oversight of public education that may alter the traditional role of locally elected school boards.
- **House Bill 2697** – legislation addressing elements of education policy and funding structures that may impose new requirements or shift resources in ways that impact district operations.

- **House Bill 2710 and Executive Order 26-01** – proposals establishing an A–F statewide school accountability grading system, which could oversimplify school performance and may not adequately reflect the challenges faced by schools serving diverse student populations.
- **Proposals to Eliminate Missouri’s Individual Income Tax (Including HJR 173 and Related Legislation)**- Several legislative proposals and constitutional amendments have been introduced that would begin the process of eliminating Missouri’s individual income tax. These proposals generally seek to phase out the income tax over time and replace lost revenue through expanded sales taxes or other revenue sources. Missouri’s individual income tax currently represents a significant portion of the state’s general revenue, which funds major public services including K-12 education through the state foundation formula and other education programs. Any major restructuring of the state’s tax system could have significant implications for long-term funding stability for public schools. The St. Joseph School District Board of Education believes that major changes to Missouri’s tax structure should be carefully evaluated to ensure that public education funding remains stable and that school districts have the resources necessary to serve students effectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully urges Missouri’s elected officials to prioritize policies that strengthen public education, support adequate and stable school funding, and preserve the authority of locally elected school boards.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Missouri, members of the Missouri General Assembly representing this region, the Missouri Commissioner of Education, and the Missouri School Boards’ Association.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Missouri Education Policy Proposals Impacting Public Schools (2026)

Informational Brief for the St. Joseph School District Board of Education

State policy decisions made by the Missouri General Assembly and the Governor have significant effects on public school districts, including funding levels, governance authority, and accountability systems. The following provides an overview of several proposals currently being discussed at the state level that may affect Missouri public schools.

HB 2668 – Property Tax Assessment Changes

Summary

HB 2668 proposes changes to Missouri’s property tax calculation process following reassessment cycles. The legislation modifies how increases in assessed property values are handled when local tax rates are adjusted under rollback provisions.

Why this matters for school districts

Local property taxes are a major funding source for Missouri public schools. Changes to how reassessment increases are calculated may affect the rate at which school district revenues grow when property values increase.

Potential impacts could include:

- Reduced local revenue growth for school districts
- Less predictable funding for district budgets
- Potential pressure on districts to reduce services or programs if revenue growth slows

School districts across Missouri often monitor property tax policy closely because of its direct relationship to local school funding stability.

HB 1998 – Education Governance and Administrative Authority

Summary

HB 1998 proposes statutory changes related to elements of governance and administrative oversight within Missouri’s education system. The legislation may alter certain responsibilities or authorities currently exercised by local school boards or state education agencies.

Why this matters for school districts

Missouri’s education system has historically relied on locally elected school boards to provide oversight, budgeting authority, and policy direction for school districts.

Changes affecting governance structures may influence:

- Local decision-making authority
- District flexibility in addressing community needs
- The relationship between local districts and state oversight agencies

School districts often emphasize the importance of maintaining strong local governance structures to ensure that education decisions reflect community priorities.

HB 2697 – Education Policy and Program Oversight

Summary

HB 2697 contains provisions affecting elements of education policy, program oversight, and funding structures. Legislative changes in this area may influence how education programs are administered and how resources are distributed across school districts.

Why this matters for school districts

Changes to education policy or program requirements can affect district operations, particularly when new requirements are introduced.

Possible implications may include:

- New administrative or reporting requirements
- Changes in how certain education programs are funded or regulated
- Operational adjustments for school districts to comply with new policies

When evaluating such proposals, school districts typically consider whether policy changes are accompanied by sufficient resources to support implementation.

HB 2710 and Executive Order 26-01 – A–F School Accountability System

Summary

HB 2710 proposes the creation of a statewide accountability system assigning letter grades from **A through F** to public schools and districts. Governor Mike Kehoe has also directed the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop a similar system through Executive Order 26-01.

Under this model, schools would receive a letter grade based on performance indicators such as:

- Academic achievement
- Student growth
- Graduation rates
- Other accountability metrics

Why this matters for school districts

Supporters of letter-grade accountability systems argue they provide transparency and help families understand school performance.

However, education leaders in many states have raised concerns that such systems may:

- Oversimplify complex educational outcomes
- Fail to fully account for socioeconomic factors affecting student achievement
- Create misleading comparisons between schools serving very different student populations

District leaders often advocate for accountability systems that provide comprehensive information about school performance while supporting continuous improvement.

Proposals to Eliminate Missouri's Individual Income Tax

(Including HJR 173 and related legislation)

Summary

Several legislative proposals and constitutional amendments have been introduced that would begin phasing out Missouri's individual income tax. Most proposals would gradually reduce the tax over several years and replace lost revenue through expanded sales taxes or other revenue sources.

Many proposals would ultimately require approval from Missouri voters if placed on the statewide ballot.

Why this matters for school districts

Missouri's individual income tax represents a significant portion of the state's general revenue, which helps fund many public services including K-12 education.

Education funding supported by state revenue includes:

- The **Missouri Foundation Formula**
- Transportation funding for school districts
- Early childhood and education programs
- Other services supporting students and families

Major changes to the state tax structure could influence how public education is funded depending on how replacement revenue sources are structured.

School districts often monitor tax policy proposals carefully because long-term funding stability is essential for:

- Hiring and retaining teachers
- Maintaining academic programs
- Supporting student services
- Planning district budgets responsibly

Key Considerations for Local School Districts

Policy changes at the state level affect:

- Public school funding stability
- Local governance authority
- Accountability measures used to evaluate schools
- Administrative and operational requirements for districts

Local boards of education frequently engage in dialogue with state policymakers to ensure that education policies reflect the realities faced by Missouri schools and communities.

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