

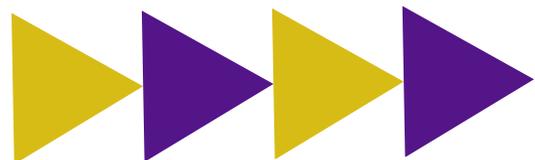
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

# EDUCATION



## EDUCATION

The future of the state and our region depend on a skilled and educated workforce. Educational districts and institutions contributing to the development of Missouri's next generation of citizens, from preschool through multiple postsecondary options such as professional certificate and degree programs, cannot fulfill their mission without your support. Collectively, we ask legislators to make increasingly larger investments in education and workforce development for the purposes of stronger communities and better employment opportunities



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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY  
**EDUCATION**



## WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Support of PreK-12 and higher education is an investment in the people, and by extension, the future vitality of our region. Access to quality education throughout life, coupled with a clear understanding of the link between a quality education, the ability to earn higher wages, and the capability of those things to improve the quality of life for families, neighborhoods, and communities, are areas of common ground that will lift Northwest Missouri.

Our region depends on an educated and motivated workforce that is skilled in the needs of today as well as the ability to anticipate the needs we face tomorrow. These skills are not learned by following the same methods year after year. Therefore, we ask our legislators to continue innovating and investing in education and workforce development that move our state forward.

## HOW TO HELP

### **For Elementary and Secondary Education:**

- Support rural and small public schools with a significant funding increase to the "Small Schools Program" found in HB3002. Last year, 206 school districts split just \$15 million appropriated to the program. The program has not seen an increase since the fund began in 2006.
- Support the governor's FY2023 recommendation, at minimum, for the foundation formula (\$3,561,737,794) in HB3002.
- Continue supporting increases for PreK programs and PreK special education programs in HB3002.

### **For Higher Education:**

- Seek and support an increase to core appropriations in HB3003 for each public higher education institution for the purpose of keeping up with inflationary costs related to the state's retirement system, utilities, insurance, and wages.
- Support MoExcels grant funding in HB3003, for which NWMSU, NCMC, and MWSU have recently submitted strong grant applications for expansions in healthcare and education programs.
- Support opportunities that maximize state and federal funds for deferred maintenance needs on each public campus in HB3018/3019.
- Support full funding of the A+ scholarship program in HB3003 available to students enrolled at two-year institutions.