

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

The way we fund schools matters. Through the modernization task force, Missouri has an opportunity to reform its school finance system to be more transparent, efficient, and student-focused. By aligning funding with outcomes, the state can ensure long-term sustainability while prioritizing student achievement and workforce readiness.

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

Families deserve more flexibility and access to the schools that best meet their children's needs. By supporting open enrollment policies that include transportation across districts, Missouri can expand opportunity, encourage innovation, and drive improvement across the public school system.

### EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Missouri's economic future depends on reliable, affordable early childhood opportunities. We're supporting expansion of child care tax credits, protecting Pre-K appropriations, and building a sustainable early childhood workforce. These investments strengthen family stability, increase workforce participation, and ensure employers have the talent pipeline they need.

### LITERACY

Literacy is the gateway skill for every subject and future career. With too many Missouri students reading below grade level, we are supporting the implementation of science-of-reading instruction, professional development for teachers, and evidence-based supports. Strengthening literacy now secures Missouri's competitiveness in the future.