



MRTA
MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL
877-366-MRTA
3030 DUPONT CIRCLE
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65109
WWW.MRTA.ORG



2022 MRTA ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

PRIORITY #1 – MRTA STRONGLY supports HB 2430 (Representative Rusty Black) and HB 2161 (Representative Chris Dinkins). THIS IS MRTA'S #1 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY. This legislation re-establishes the 2.55 factor after 32 years.

- This legislation will enable well-trained and experienced teachers to stay in the classroom, helping to alleviate some of the teacher and substitute teacher shortages.
 - When it was first passed, there was a 26% increase in the number of teachers who stayed teaching at retirement eligibility.
- This legislation has a positive financial effect on the PSRS system of over **\$16.8 million per year**.
 - Reduces the contribution rate and increases the funded ratio making the system more financially stable.

PRIORITY #2 – MRTA supports HB 2114 (Representative Rusty Black), making changes to the critical shortage provision and PSRS retirees returning to work in non-certificated positions.

- This legislation will enable well-trained and experienced retired teachers to assist when there are shortages of substitutes and teachers, especially in positions that are difficult to fill.
- This legislation has a positive financial impact on PSRS and PEERS.

PRIORITY #3 – MRTA supports full funding of the Foundation Formula and opposes the use of public tax dollars for private schools.

- The Missouri Constitution mandates equal and adequate funding of K-12 education through HB 2, which requires education funding as the second priority of state expenditures.
 - Due to several tax cuts enacted by the legislature over the past several years, general revenue is expected to be reduced significantly in future years.
- MRTA asks funding for public education be the #1 priority.
 - When K-12 programs are fully funded and of high quality, the result is higher test scores and increased educational attainment for students.
 - Fully funding K-12 programs ensures that every student in a community has the same educational opportunities as other local communities, regardless of their personal or financial situation.

PRIORITY #4 – MRTA supports increasing minimum starting teacher salary and increasing active teacher salary.

- Our public schools and teachers are the heart of our local communities.
- Our teachers, administrators, and public education employees play a vital role in the success of our students and school districts.

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- In 2020, beginning Missouri teachers' salaries ranked 49th out of the 50 states with average salary at 45th – \$50,870 compared to the national average of \$64,133.
- Missouri revenue for public education as a percent of total revenue was 50th at 30.7% while the national average was 47.1%.
- Although the financial support for public education is lagging the national average, Missouri's student performance is above the national average. Why are our students outperforming – our teachers.
 - 73% of classroom teaching in Missouri is performed by teachers with over 20+ years of teaching experience.
 - 95% of teachers entering their 15th year of teaching will stay teaching until they reach retirement eligibility.

OPPOSITION TO THE PUSH FOR CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION & VOUCHER TAX CREDITS

PRIORITY #4 – MRTA STRONGLY opposes HB 1552 (Representative Doug Richey) as this legislation would revise the law specifying payments to charter schools and shift more local school funds to charter schools.

- Instead of 90% of funding following a student leaving public school to attend a charter school, 100% of state funding would follow the student.
- Charter schools and voucher tax credits take scarce tax revenue away from public schools.
- Public schools are held accountable by the state for their academic performance.
- Teachers in public schools are required to be certificated by the state.

PRIORITY #5 – MRTA STRONGLY opposes any bill that restricts or reduces funding for public schools, such as SB 649, SB 650, SB 841, and SB 869, as these bills take funding resources away from our public schools.

- Charter schools and voucher tax credits take scarce tax revenue away from public schools.