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### **A Shaky Foundation**

*Analysis Shows District and County Level Impact of Shortchanging Our Schools*

A [new analysis by the Missouri Budget Project](#) shows that Missouri is shortchanging school districts in every part of the state, by an average of \$700 per student every year. By failing to invest properly in local K-12 schools, Missouri is undermining not only its commitment to quality public education, but its future prosperity.

“Two out of three school districts are underfunded by an average of \$800 per student or more. This means fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and reduced class offerings,” said Roger Kurtz, Executive Director of the Missouri Association of School Administrators. “Economic development results from a quality education and a well-prepared workforce. Underfunding K-12 schools is a short-sighted way to balance the state’s budget.”

[The analysis found that nearly every county in the state had at least one school district that is \\$700 per student or more short of the state’s required funding level.](#) Although the shortfall is hurting districts throughout the state, it tends to have a more pronounced impact in rural areas compared to Missouri’s large cities of Kansas City and St. Louis.

The shortfall per student by school district varies significantly across the state, from a low of \$34 per student in the Clayton School District (located in St. Louis County) to a high of \$978 per student in the Potosi R-III School District (located in Washington County). Overall, county-level shortfalls average from a low of \$199/student in Camden County to a high of \$967/student in Pulaski County.

“Missouri’s legislature should live up to the commitments it has made to our state’s students,” said Amy Blouin, Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project. “Missouri can’t afford to erode its tax base with tax cuts that will further jeopardize the state’s ability to invest in the world-class education our kids need to compete in today’s global economy.”

For the full report and details on the shortfalls for each school district, visit:

[http://www.mobudget.org/files/A\\_Shaky\\_Foundation.pdf](http://www.mobudget.org/files/A_Shaky_Foundation.pdf)

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