Board of Aldermen Request for Action

MEETING DATE: 11/17/2026 **DEPARTMENT:** Administration

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution 1649, School Funding Formula

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

A motion to approve Resolution 1649, urging the Governor and the General Assembly to fully fund the Missouri School Foundation Formula.

SUMMARY

North Kansas City Mayor Jesse Smith has asked local governments to support full funding of Missouri's School Foundation Formula as required by state law. The state funded the formula below the calculated amount in Fiscal Year 2027 and is projected to do so again in Fiscal Year 2028.

For the Smithville School District, this would result in a loss of more than $1 million in FY2028 and an estimated cumulative shortfall of at least $2.3 million over several years. The proposed resolution urges state leaders to fully fund public education, highlights the importance of schools to the community and local economy, and supports using future education-related revenues, such as sports wagering proceeds, as supplemental rather than replacement funding.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Information concerning Missouri's School Foundation Formula was included in the City Administration Report on November 3, 2026 and the Board directed staff to bring a Resolution forward for action.

POLICY ISSUE

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no direct financial impact to the City associated with adoption of the resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ Ordinance
- ☒ Resolution
- ☐ Staff Report
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ Contract
- ☐ Plans
- ☐ Minutes

RESOLUTION 1649

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FULLY FUND THE MISSOURI SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 1(a) of the Missouri Constitution declares that "a general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the general assembly shall establish and maintain free public schools"; and

WHEREAS, the school foundation formula established in Chapter 163, RSMo, calculates the amount of state aid required to provide an adequate education to every public school student in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2027 state budget funded the foundation formula approximately $190 million below the amount required by law, reducing state aid to every public school district in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2028, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) calculated a State Adequacy Target of $7,145 per student and recommended that the formula be fully funded; and

WHEREAS, in September 2026, after a motion to request full funding failed on a tie vote, the State Board of Education instead requested $4,282,736,000 for the formula, holding it at the Fiscal Year 2027 level and leaving it approximately $270 million short of the amount required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Smithville School District, which educates the children of Smithville, Missouri, has received less state aid than the law requires, placing added pressure on its budget, its classrooms, and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, strong public schools are essential to Smithville families, neighborhoods, property values, workforce, and economic vitality, and underfunding at the state level shifts the burden onto local taxpayers and local districts; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Smithville believes that the State of Missouri should meet its constitutional and statutory obligations to public school students in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SMITHVILLE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen urges the Governor to recommend, and the Missouri General Assembly to appropriate, full funding of the school foundation formula for Fiscal Year 2028 at the amount calculated by DESE under Chapter 163, RSMo, and not the lower amount of $4,282,736,000 requested by the State Board of Education.

Section 2. The Board of Aldermen urges that the foundation formula be fully funded in every fiscal year, and that revenue designated for education, including revenue from sports wagering, be used to supplement, and not replace, full formula funding.

Section 3. The Board of Aldermen urges the State Board of Education to request full funding of the foundation formula in all future budget requests.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor; the President Pro Tem of the Missouri Senate; the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives; the chairs of the House Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee; the members of the General Assembly who represent the City of Smithville; the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education; the Board of Education of the Smithville School District; and the Missouri Municipal League.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Aldermen and **APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Smithville, Missouri, the 17th day of November 2026**.**

_____
Damien Boley, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Linda Drummond, City Clerk