

# CASS COUNTY KIDS FIRST

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The public school districts of Cass County collaboratively support legislative action that enhances the quality of education in the County. Cass County public school districts provide high quality education for students due to the support of local communities that value public education. Cass County districts serve more than 18,000 students and the population growth experienced in recent years can be attributed in part to the quality of the local schools. As the Missouri State Legislature considers legislative action in the 2021 session, the following priorities are collectively supported by the Cass County Kids First school districts:

### **School Choice Concerns**

- Accountability standards for charter schools and MOCAP virtual schools
- All local tax dollars under the control of a publicly elected board
- No diversion of revenue through tax credit savings accounts
- No diversion of public funds to non-public schools or organizations

### **Funding**

- Support for workforce development opportunities for students
- Appropriate funding for all new mandates
- Fully fund the Foundation and Transportation formulas
- Increase support for Parents as Teachers and Early Childhood Education
- Increase local bonding capacity to 20%
- Institute tax credit reform to help fund essential programs
- Provide school districts an opportunity to opt out of local tax abatements

### **Support Local Control**

- Maintain non-partisan school board elections in April
- Curriculum and instructional practices
- Financial flexibility
- Educator evaluation and compensation
- Staff training requirements
- School calendar

### **Accountability**

- Maintain high standards with local flexibility to achieve those standards
- Support struggling schools rather than punish them
- Reduce the reliance on standardized tests
- Support to help recruit and retain professional educators