

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 16

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GANNON.

0676L.011

2           **WHEREAS**, the children of Missouri are our future and will provide the leadership,  
3 creativity, and productivity to strengthen and sustain the quality of life in our state; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri has the responsibility for ensuring that our children  
5 have every possible opportunity for school and future success; and

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7           **WHEREAS**, each student in Missouri deserves to be challenged academically and  
8 prepared for college, meaningful employment in our global economy, and lifelong success; and

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10           **WHEREAS**, each student in Missouri deserves to be actively engaged in learning and  
11 connected to the school and broader community; and

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13           **WHEREAS**, each student in Missouri deserves to be supported by qualified, caring  
14 adults and receive access to personalized learning; and

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16           **WHEREAS**, each student in Missouri deserves to learn about and practice a healthy  
17 lifestyle; and

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19           **WHEREAS**, each student in Missouri deserves to learn in an environment that is  
20 physically and emotionally safe; and

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22           **WHEREAS**, the consequences of not ensuring our young people are challenged,  
23 engaged, supported, healthy and safe are clear; and

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25           **WHEREAS**, with approximately 2400 schools enrolling over 915,000 students, Missouri  
26 ranks in the top ten in the nation for high school graduation rates, according to a 2014 national  
27 report published by Education Week, with a graduation rate of 83.7 percent; and

28           **WHEREAS**, despite these gains, far too many young people are still failing to complete  
29 a meaningful high school education, with most of the nongraduates coming from educationally  
30 and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and communities; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, 66% of Hispanic students and 68% of African-American students graduate  
33 from high school, with those rates 10-15% below the graduation rates of white students; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, graduation rates in large metropolitan areas with high concentrations of  
36 low-income students are far lower than the national average as well, with graduation rates in the  
37 60-70% range; and

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39           **WHEREAS**, the lost lifetime earnings for those Missouri students who fail to graduate  
40 from high school is estimated to exceed \$6 billion; and

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42           **WHEREAS**, Missouri spends over \$50 million each year to provide remediation  
43 education for recent high school graduates who did not acquire basic skills necessary to succeed  
44 in college or at work; and

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46           **WHEREAS**, the rate of poverty in Missouri has risen steadily over the past few years,  
47 up from 13.4% in 2008 to 16.2% today. That nearly 3% increase means approximately 179,000  
48 more Missourians live in poverty today, which is more than the populations of Jefferson City and  
49 Columbia combined; and

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51           **WHEREAS**, out of the more than 6 million people living in Missouri, 947,792 live at  
52 or below the federal poverty level, with more than 400,000 of those people living in extreme  
53 poverty; and

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55           **WHEREAS**, in 2012, 310,000 of Missouri's children lived in poverty, which was an  
56 increase of 4,000 children since 2011. At 23% of children living at or below the federal poverty  
57 level, nearly one in every four children lives in poverty in the Show-Me State; and

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59           **WHEREAS**, in 2011, 62% of Hispanic children, 68% of African-American children, and  
60 38% of Caucasian children lived in low-income families; and

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62           **WHEREAS**, in 2014, Missouri is now the 16th most obese state in the United States for  
63 adults at 30.4% and the 35th most obese state in the United States for children at 28.4%, with  
64 almost one in three Missouri students ages 10-17 now considered to be overweight or obese; and

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66           **WHEREAS**, in 2014, the United States Department of Health and Human Services  
67 reports that one in three students say they have been bullied at school; and

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69           **WHEREAS**, research indicates that more than 20% of students report there is no adult  
70 at their school who cares about them or knows them well:

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72           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
73 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
74 concurring therein, hereby recognizes September 2015 as Missouri Whole Child Month; and

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76           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly recognizes the value of  
77 assuring that each student is challenged, engaged, supported, healthy, and safe; encourages  
78 parents, educators, and community members to support a whole child approach to education for  
79 each student; and

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81           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages every Missouri  
82 school to celebrate Whole Child Month by identifying at least one of the whole child tenets to  
83 promote and encourage throughout the month.

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