



Legislature Passes Bill to Bring Transparency to Schools

Published on *Show-Me Institute* (<https://showmeinstitute.org>)



nathanmac87 / Creative Commons 2.0

By: Philip Oehlerking

If school districts can levy taxes, then taxpayers should be able to see exactly how the money is being spent. And with the passage of House Bill 1606, it would seem the Missouri legislature agrees. If it's signed by the governor, the new law will help bring transparency to school district spending, an aspect of government that is the [focus](#) of the Show-Me Checkbook Project. Public school districts will be required to develop a searchable database to track their expenditures and revenue, and that database will be made available to the public. The law also directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a template that a school may use if it does not have a website to host a database.

It is especially encouraging to see the legislature pass HB1606 at a time when [audits](#) show how schools can mismanage the money they receive.

I hope this legislation will serve as a template for the establishment of other databases to monitor how cities, counties, and special taxing districts spend the public's money. Such databases are a 21st-century tool for the age-old task of keeping government accountable to taxpayers.

About the Author



*Philip Oehlerking
Research Assistant*

Philip Oehlerking graduated from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in political science. His research interests include transportation policy and government transparency.

Read Online

<https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/transparency/legislature-passes-bill-bring-transparency-schools>

Links

[1] <https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/transparency/legislature-passes-bill-bring-transparency-schools>

[2] <https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/transparency/show-me-institute-rolls-out-municipal-checkbook-project>

[3] <https://showmeinstitute.org/blog/accountability/so-%E2%80%99s-what-you-spent-your-money>

Mission Statement

Advancing liberty with responsibility by promoting market solutions for Missouri public policy.

Show-Me Institute

5297 Washington Place	3645 Troost Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63108	Kansas City, MO 64109
Phone: (314) 454-0647	Phone: (816) 287-0370
Fax: (314) 454-0667	

Email: info@showmeinstitute.org

Support Our Work

The Show-Me Institute is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Make your tax deductible contribution today: <http://ShowMeInstitute.org/donate>