



WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, Dec. 19, 2022

INDEPENDENCE TO GO TO 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK

The Independence School District is slated to become the largest school district in Missouri to shift to a 4-day school week after its school board voted 6-1 on Dec. 13 to make the switch starting with the 2023-2024 school year, according to The Kansas City Star.

Just a few years ago, only a handful of districts had adopted the 4-day schedule. However, more than one-fourth of Missouri's 518 districts have now done so.

The 4-day option allows districts to reduce operating expenses and provides employees with the flexibility of fewer workdays. However, critics contend student performance suffers from having fewer – but longer –

school days, and that the shorter week creates hardships for families who might not be able to obtain or afford childcare for the fifth day.

State law has authorized public school districts to adopt a 4-day school week since 2009 with the Lathrop School District in rural Clinton County in northwest Missouri becoming the first in 2010. Few districts made the switch during the early years, with only 25 having done so as of 2017.

In just two years, however, that number more than doubled to 62 in 2019 and quickly crossed into triple digits with 106 4-day districts after the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020. As of August, 141 of Missouri's 518 public school districts – about 27% – had shifted to a 4-day school week, according to an Aug. 10 story by KCUR, a public radio station in Kansas City.

Up until now, the 4-day schedule primarily has been adopted by small, rural districts, with the 3,100-student Warren County School District on the western outskirts of the St. Louis area believed to be the largest.

The Independence district serves roughly 14,000 students and will be the first district in the Kanas City metro area to make the change, according to The Star.

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS JUDGMENT

The Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District on Dec. 6 upheld a \$39 million judgment against a subsidiary of

Charter Communications for its failure to pay local taxes to numerous Missouri cities plus St. Louis County.

Although the company could still appeal to the state Supreme Court, the latest ruling brings the 12-year-old case a step closer to conclusion.

The small St. Louis County city of Winchester initiated the lawsuit in 2010, claiming Charter had failed to pay the city's business licensing tax since at least 2005, despite providing local telephone service to Winchester residents. The case was certified as a class-action lawsuit including similar claims by 122 other Missouri cities and St. Louis County.

Charter argued its "voice over internet protocol," or VoIP, telephone service isn't a "telecommunications service" subject to taxation but an "information service" that isn't taxable under federal law.

After a decade of legal maneuvering, a final judgment by the trial court was reached in 2020 when St. Louis County Circuit Judge Michael Jamison rejected the company's position and ruled in the favor of the plaintiffs.

Jamison ordered the company to pay plaintiffs more than \$39 million, an amount that includes back taxes dating from July 2005 to the date of his ruling in December 2020, along with interest and attorney fees. The three-judge appellate panel upheld Jamison's ruling in all respects. The case is Collector of Winchester and City of Winchester v. Charter Communications Inc.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS JAN. 18

Gov. Mike Parson plans to deliver the 2023 State of the State address before a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly on Jan. 18 at 3 p.m.

Parson will also use the occasion to present his proposed state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

This will be Parson's fifth State of the State speech since taking office in June 2018.



I spoke about my bill to make sometimes deadly celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire within or into city limits a state offense and other public safety legislation I have introduced for consideration during the 2023 session of the Missouri General Assembly during a legislative forum at the December 12 meeting of the South Kansas City Alliance including (from left) Representative Ashley Bland Manlove, Representative-Elect Anthony Ealy and Representative Jon Patterson, House Majority Floor Leader.

KC PET PROJECT ♥

HOME *for the* HOLIDAYS

ADOPTION SPECIAL

\$22

ADOPTIONS

Puppies, kittens, specialty breeds excluded.

DECEMBER 1ST - 31ST

*At the KC Campus for Animal Care, Petco on 95th (cats only),
Zona Rosa Adoption Center, and pets in foster homes.*

New Meeting Time!

Coffee

and

CONVERSATION

with



COUNCILWOMAN PARKS-SHAW

SATURDAY

JANUARY
21ST

STARTS AT 10:00 AM



11900 Blue Ridge Blvd.



Sponsored by



RYANA PARKS-SHAW
COUNCILWOMAN - 5TH DISTRICT

Formula Distribution!!



Cradle **kc**  Community
Health Council
of Wyandotte County

CHC and Cradle KC are a formula distribution site! We have a variety of infant formula available. If we do not have the type of formula you need, we can request it.

Scan the QR code to
submit your
request

ee.

contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have
questions



Understanding and Accessing **MISSOURI MEDICAID**

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



1

\$1,481

2

\$2,003

3

\$2,525

4

\$3,048

5

\$3,570

6

\$4,092

How do I apply?

GOOD NEWS!

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

Online:

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

By Phone:

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

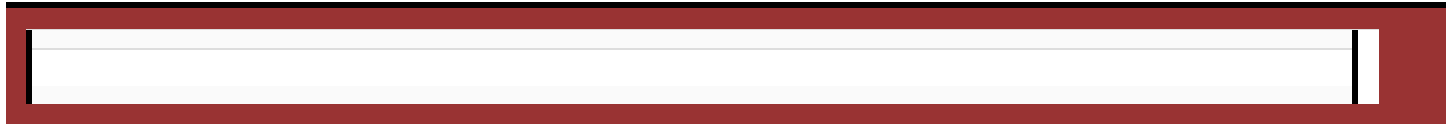
By Mail or Email:

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

Family Support Division
615 E 13th St
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov



KIDS EAT FREE



AGES
18 AND
UNDER



WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST

MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134

FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US
AT KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM

**THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*



South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.



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WEB TIPS

KCcrimestoppers.com



FREE MOBILE APP

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**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or ideas!**