



**News from**  
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Coladipietro to Democrats: Stop Playing Politics & Release  
Education Dollars**

**Springfield...** State Representative Franco Coladipietro (Bloomington) on Thursday took action to secure the release of crucial state funding our schools have been waiting for. Coladipietro along with his House Republican colleagues demanded action on legislation held up by House Democrats that is needed to release the education dollars approved in the new state budget.

“The legislature was able to pass a bipartisan budget back in August. However, the Speaker along with the House Democrats are now unwilling to pass the necessary legislation to release these promised education dollars. It doesn’t make sense and our local schools are paying for their inaction,” Coladipietro said.

Citing the Democrats’ inaction, Representative Coladipietro along with House Republican colleagues filed an education budget implementation bill (HB4151) and took to the House floor with fellow Republicans demanding action. Coladipietro’s legislation contains the \$600 million increase in state funding for education which includes \$136.8 million for mandated categoricals, \$400 increase from \$5,334 to \$5,734 in the general state aid – foundation level, \$20 million increase for the early childhood block grant and a \$13.7 million increase for the textbook loan program. It also includes provisions to ensure that no school district will receive less in state aid dollars than they received last year.

“I am very disappointed that the House Democrats would not listen to the needs of their local school districts,” Coladipietro said. “The legislature has already finished the hard part of the job – producing a balanced budget. Why would the Democrats hold up the easy part of actually releasing these promised education dollars?”

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