



# LOUISIANA SENATE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ST. LANDRY EXCELLENCE FUND RAIDED IN JINDAL BUDGET**

**Baton Rouge – State Senator Eric LaFleur expressed disappointment in Governor Jindal's plan to raid the St. Landry Excellence fund for programs outside of education and outside of St. Landry Parish.**

**"The St. Landry Excellence Fund was created for one purpose: to provide additional educational funding in St. Landry Parish," said Sen. LaFleur. "The Racino proposition passed in part because the voters knew that additional educational dollars would be generated from Racino operations."**

**"The governor's proposed raid on this fund, a fund that is designated specifically for St. Landry Parish, would only bring about greater problems for our parish public schools," stated Sen. LaFleur.**

**The budget bills, House Bill 1 and House Bill 822, that make up part of Governor Jindal's annual budget would appropriate only \$756,250 to the school board with the expected balance in the fund of approximately \$1,800,000 being deposited into the Medical Assistance Trust Fund. The loss of money from the St. Landry Excellence Fund comes on top of the Board of Secondary and Elementary Education's refusal to provide any increase in the Minimum Foundation Program for public education.**

**"Governor Jindal raids the fund and takes those dollars directly from the St. Landry Parish School System. Moreover, he's budgeting more than what the fund generates which makes it even more misleading," said Sen. LaFleur.**

**The Louisiana Minimum Foundation Program's annual 2.75% growth factor been frozen since the end of fiscal year 2008-2009 at \$3,855 per student. Without that growth factor, public schools in Louisiana have experienced an 8% reduction in per pupil funding.**

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