***The Missouri Senate Minute* Script
Teacher Pay**

Teacher pay may become one of the top issues for Missouri senators this year.

Teachers received a pay bump in the current state operating budget.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden of Columbia says he favors teacher pay raises…

 **Rowden :08 Q: it’s hurting kids.**

Starting teacher salaries were raised to $38,000 when lawmakers put together the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget last session.

But Missouri Senate Minority Floor Leader John Rizzo of Independence says he believes this entire discussion is long overdue…

 **Rizzo :09 Q: for a profession.**

In the meantime, the first bills have been assigned to their respective committees. The [Missouri Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee](https://www.senate.mo.gov/Committees/CommitteeDetails/10) has already held its first hearing, with another now on the schedule.

Reporting from the State Capitol, I’m Dean Morgan.