

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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needed in order to follow through with the current unifications?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Is that your final question? (Laugh)

SENATOR BEUTLER: It depends on how final your answer is.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Let me try to...first of all, the Incentive Fund originally had \$5 million in it. It currently has \$2 million. So \$3 million has been used for schools. When LB 1161...

SENATOR BEUTLER: We don't know...we don't know how many school districts...

SENATOR BOHLKE: But we know...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...used that \$3 million?

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...the amount. And I've named some of them. But that's the amount. We originally had asked the Department of Education, looking at what they were hearing from schools, what would be the appropriate amount we needed. And this bill originally had a \$3 million A bill on it. Realizing that, looking over all the things that we were dealing with, that was not possible. So we said to the Department of Education, just for those to be complete that have...to complete the funding for those who have done the unification, what would we need, not with regard to those that are ongoing and haven't been finalized. They said that amount would be \$500,000 this year. So we took the bill down to \$500,000. But then we would have to come back next year to deal with those that are out there in the midst of the process. And so the \$2 million from the Hardship Fund leaves eight hundred and some thousand dollars. It would seem that, from Senator Wehrbein's recommendation, and what makes sense to me, it hadn't been used, but \$800,000 would still be able to be accessed, and would be a good sum of money in case a school had an emergency. So it's recognizing leaving that. And it's not "finding" money. And there is a difference between spending money and transferring money. And so this would transfer that amount of money. I think the Appropriations Committee or the Chair of the Appropriations Committee could recommend transferring money at any time. It is not "finding"