

time, and this is the way that the bill would be phased in. For the school year 1990-91 it would be absolutely voluntary on the part of both school districts. At that point both the option district and the resident district would have to agree to both send kids and accept kids and then you could have kids transferring between schools. That's 1990-91, very similar to Minnesota's initial year of phase-in. The other two years of phase-in, the next year, in '91-92, the phase-in would be on a voluntary basis on the part of the option district. The resident district, at that point, would have the opportunity to protect 95 percent of their student body. After 5 percent transfer...after 5 percent ask for a transfers and were accepted into an option district, then they could stop any more transfers out of their district. This would give them a chance to deal with the problems that are there and for the reasons that the children are leaving they would be able to adjust their program accordingly and try and keep the rest of the students that are there. This is similar to Iowa's phase-in program. Iowa has a voluntary and then a 5 percent. The next one is just another step in the phase-in, which would be '92-93, and participation would be the same as the year before, except that they could only protect 90 percent of their student body, not 95 percent. And so then they would still, there is still a couple of years of adjustment in there for school districts to make the adjustments necessary to keep the pupils in the district. The next year we would have, '93-94, then the enrollment option program would be implemented statewide. I think that this should allay some fears of people who say that we're moving too fast, we're moving way too quickly on this thing. I know it is a new idea. It's one that is being considered in a number of states. I don't know if you noticed the paper this morning, in the Omaha World-Herald it went out of the Education Committee in Iowa yesterday on a 17 to 4 vote, and so it is now before the House. The Senate, in Iowa, has already passed choice, and now the House is also considering choice. It's been introduced in Colorado, was introduced two weeks ago in Colorado. I understand that Kansas is considering the same legislation. This is something that is going on in a number of states. Let's see. Oh, and the next part of the bill is Section 5 of the amendment, of AM501. And this says that the enrollment option program shall not preclude any contractual arrangements that already exist between school districts and educational service units. It simply...is simply clarifying language for school districts that already cooperate and already have cooperative kinds of programs, that those folks can continue to do that.