

SENATOR BAACK: The formulas and everything stay in place just like they are now. We tried to arrange it so that the formulas and the payment procedure stays exactly the way it is now, so we didn't disrupt that procedure and didn't have to go through a whole different set of formulas. Now the special ed people, the people that specialize in that area are looking at this right now. This is where I got the idea from, was from the Department of Education from the special ed people. We wanted to try and leave it in place and intact as much as possible so that the district that actually educates the child will receive the money, but we don't change that money going to the resident district first and then it goes on to the receiving district.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, but is it true that we will allow special ed students to transfer from their own school district into another district?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, we could do that. We do that now. Some districts contract with one another and do that now and this would allow that to remain in place also.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, I would like to draw your attention to the Lincoln Journal editorial that I circulated. What about the students that are left behind? What about those who are effectively trapped? What about the depth, width and quality of educational programs and opportunities available to them? The answer given to these questions was that districts losing students would be jabbed to look far more seriously at what they are doing. This could be a great opportunity for smaller schools to improve their programs, some people have said. In other words, a response bordering on the cynical. If they haven't done it already, such districts would be less able with still fewer students, and also, less money. You know, I look at this, and I'm not going to belabor the point because I would prefer that you leave it right here, don't advance it, don't advance it, but I don't think you're going to be doing that. But you know in our state aid formula we have equalization aid. We have equalization aid in the state aid formula and the purpose of equalization aid is to equalize educational opportunities across the state. It gives more money