

SENATOR NELSON: No, they have to provide the new programs, as I mentioned, it has to be...it is not just a...I will say that nearly every student would qualify. You could call it somewhat state aid to education, if you want to, excepting they have to develop or be enrolled in vocational education programs, but when you take economics or retailing, health fields, most every school student from grade nine through twelve would qualify, and it is approximately by the total number of students in the State of Nebraska divided by \$5 million comes out to approximately 75, or I mean \$65 per student.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: \$65 per student.

SENATOR NELSON: Right.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Okay, thank you, Senator Nelson. I want to raise some issues on this bill, and this seems to almost pick up where Senator Lamb left off the last time. I don't know particularly that I have ever been perceived by vocational educators as particularly friendly to vocational education, and I want to first make it clear that I don't oppose vocational education. But one of the questions I think we need to consider in this day and age is what really is vocational education today, and what is appropriate that you give at the high school level and what is appropriate that you give someplace else, whether it be in the workplace or whether it be in probably the technical community colleges. And I would suggest to people today that a vocational education at the high school level is probably English, computing, mathematics, and communication skills. If you have not seen a series that was, a special edition that was put out by Business Week in September, September 19 of '88, I'd recommend this as good reading. I know the technical colleges have used that as a rationale as for why we should support their efforts, but some of the observations in this particular area really point out how much better educated our work force has to be today to be competitive, and I would not want us to just continue to support what I would consider to be traditional training kinds of efforts that vocational education has typically been in the past because I don't think that is going to keep you alive in the workplace today. It appears to me that the best thing that you can do for a high school student to make them capable to go out and compete in the work force is, again, to make sure they can read, make sure they can write, make sure they can compute, and make sure that they