

average three-year tax levy that they have had. They would also submit information that shows what their costs per pupil were for a three-year average. They would send all of these in to DAS. From that DAS would calculate a systemwide average levy and also a systemwide average cost per pupil, and then they set up some deviation factors, and depending on how many deviation factors you have from this levy when you have the final from the systemwide average, if your levy is higher than that levy, depending upon how much it deviates, that will determine how much equalization aid that you will get. The fund is also capped at two and a half million...or the fund is capped at \$1 million, so that means that if...and it is set up on the basis that 40 percent of any new dollars that would go in would go into the equalization fund. The other 60 percent would go into the regular funding that we have for technical community colleges now. It is capped at \$1 million, so that means that if we put in two and a half million dollars more next year into the community college system, \$1 million of that would go into the equalization fund. The other dollars would go into the regular fund. Under that system, I will be very frank with you, Western Nebraska Community College would come up with about 80 percent of those funds, would be funneled into Western Nebraska Community College. That is under the first million dollars. I think there is some efficiency factors built into it, because depending on what your cost is per pupil, all of these things are figured into the formula so that you are encouraged to reduce your per pupil cost, because as you reduce your per pupil cost, you will actually fit more under the deviation factor, you will actually get more equalization aid. So there I think they have got a good system here. I don't know if this is the absolute best system that could be designed, and if there is some other way of putting it on...of determining that average and making sure that we can direct the money to the areas that it's needed, I would be willing to look at that. But right now, that is the best one that we could come up with at the present time. I think that one of the other factors that enters into this, of course, is the fact that WNCC right now is in a lawsuit over the fact that they have been levying a tax two and a half cents or more more higher than some of the other districts, and they have a lawsuit over that. LB 1050 yesterday was introduced into the Education Committee. I think that Senator Weihing has designated that bill as his priority bill. That would say that we would allow the all the community colleges to go to that upper levy and that would possibly preclude some further lawsuits. But this doesn't really deal with the lawsuit. I