

be the most academic. Now, they can be academic, they may not be. But the desire is that, in the 250 seventh and eighth grade students who would attend this summer program, there would be a blend of some who are very intellectually talented, who are achieving at a very high level, and yet there would be others who would have very high IQ's but who may not be performing as well in the public or private schools as one might expect. The whole concept is to try and provide an emphasis for these students to come into this summer program and be stimulated and meet with peers of their own intellectual capability, see that there are other students just like them, because some of the gifted students who may live in smaller towns in Nebraska, they maybe have no one in their class that is working at a comparable level of work that they are working at, or who learns as quickly or as rapidly as they do. So they can come together, meet other persons like them with the same intellectual abilities and study under a group of scholars and college professors and perhaps business people and people that are eminent in their field for a two-week program, and then they are able to take that back with them into their own...that learning experience back into their own educational setting. The whole purpose of the bill is to show that the State of Nebraska really cares and really wants to provide some kind of emphasis to the students who are...should be the best and the brightest that our state has to offer, and that we want to establish some kind of loyalty and commitment of these students to the State of Nebraska by offering a program like this. I can tell you I've been to a number of conferences around the country. I went to one in Arlington, Texas, I went to one in Little Rock, Arkansas, went to one in Princeton, New Jersey, just last year, and you meet students who have been through these programs, like the summer program of gifted students. And to talk with them you would be amazed at the inspiring stories that they tell, because many of them talk about the chance to attend an academy of this nature in their own state was really the thing that spurred them on in their educational pursuits. Many of them were languishing, maybe not performing as well as...up to their potential in their own high schools or junior highs. But once they attend the schools, then they are stimulated, they become interested in learning for learning sake, they appreciate the commitment that the state makes to education, and it makes drastic and dramatic changes in their educational careers. This is a bill that we have visited about with a number of people, a number of gifted education organizations around the state, all of them are highly supportive of it. We have had it before the Education