

SENATOR BAACK: They would have no students.

SENATOR WARNER: They would have to maintain a minimum of 70 students, I think, for a K to 12 system now. I don't...it used to be in that vicinity. I don't remember what the population for...you would have to have some left.

SENATOR BAACK: Yeah, you do have to, otherwise you would be depopulated.

SENATOR WARNER: Right. And the other thing, the rationale for tying transportation to the eligibility of school lunch payment, I assume, is a criteria for ability to pay.

SENATOR BAACK: That's correct. That was the easiest mechanism that we knew in existence to somehow have a reference as to ability to pay and it's something that schools have ready access to because those forms and stuff are sent out to every parent.

SENATOR WARNER: That's the federal criteria?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, it is.

SENATOR WARNER: Right. Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? Anything further, Senator Baack?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I do appreciate the questions and I think that the things that we're doing here are the results of the interim study that we did in the hearings that we did around the state. And right when they were coming up I know I felt like, gosh, I wish we didn't have to do these since we had already passed the concept, but I very, very pleased with the hearings and I was very glad that Senator Schellpeper had put that as part of the bill, because it forced me to do those hearings and I think it also allowed the citizens of this state, there were approximately 800 that attended the four different hearings, it allowed them an opportunity to ask the questions and to listen to...we had brought...we brought in some speakers from Minnesota and some from the US Department of Education and we had a school superintendent on and they all gave their views as to how they saw choice being implemented. I think it gave people a much better picture of how the open