

above property taxes, that we like to refer to as our tuition, if you will, when we're talking about public school education. What kinds of things would be included if we looked at a list that would apply both to public and private school parents? Just some of the things that we put together, things like lab fees which are a regular cost in both public and private schools, field trips that are related to the school, and the educational opportunities for children, rental fees paid to the school for things such as calculators, for musical instruments, gym clothes that are required for physical education classes, camera rentals for photography classes, home economics supplies that are required and have to be paid for out of the parent's pockets, art supplies, shop class supplies, private tutoring, private tutoring that can help a student keep up, if it's provided by the school and there is any fee associated with it. Summer school as well, if it's over and above the...in terms of cost, any portion that the parent would have to pay would, of course, be deductible under this program. Any of the normal textbook types of supplies that would not be provided free on the part of the school, such as notebooks, some types of handbooks that are disposable, if you will, that are used workbooks, those types of things that costs have to be paid out of pocket by the parents. Public transportation to school, but this would not include expenses, for example, of the family car. It would also not include any religious types of books or educational materials in that area. It would only apply to schools that are located in Nebraska, where the resident student legally fulfills the compulsory attendance law. It can't be any schools that are operated for profit, and it can't be a school that's discriminated on the basis of race, color, and national origin. They have to be approved and accredited by the State of Nebraska. These things all fit together, for my purposes, in terms of taking a look at our overall educational system. We looked, couple years ago, at a bill called LB 1059 that I think moved the state in the direction of saying we're going to pay a greater portion of our share of the cost of education as we see it. We need to continue along those lines. This bill was, I thought, fit very well into that overall formula of looking at the cost of education and how the state can support that. It's a very minor proposal in terms of the amount of money when you compare it to the overall cost of education. But the benefit that can be derived, I think, is monumental, because clearly we do have to recognize, and we have, and I think very genuinely, very openly, and I think very...I think the Legislature should be commended for things such as the textbook loan program and