

sciences and the English and the reading and those, and the sciences we have strived to try to find a way to elevate further our students to be competitive not only nationally, but internationally because we know that we are an international market. We are very much an international in regards to ideas and concepts and our way of life is determined upon what happens abroad, sometimes as much as what happens here. One of the areas in education that the Legislature, back in 1989 and later in 1991, reaffirmed that the principle area of educational knowledge, growth and, leave it at that, of knowledge and growth, takes place in the classroom. If you do not have the proper relationship between the student and the teacher, if we don't have the proper combination, no magnitude of redistricting, no measure of restructuring, no measure of state aid is going to improve that quality of education that we in this body so desperately want to do. The quality of education, no matter what we do, takes place, that spark of learning, that desire to learn, the desire to be competitive in knowledge comes in the classroom and comes from that teacher. That policy was affirmed in 1989 by the Legislature, reaffirmed in 1991 as we again appropriated another \$15 million for the teacher incentive salary. What the Legislature basically said is an argument that we said even when we talked about salaries for state senators, but what the Legislature basically said is, we understand the basic principle that the teacher colleges are having in many cases in many areas fewer quality students coming in. That is not to say that those students that are there are of lesser quality, but there are many top quality students that are choosing to opt out of teachers college and go elsewhere. The question has been asked time and time again, why? Why are some of our best minds, our best talents in education, why are they not choosing to go into education and it came back very clear and resounding, salary, future benefits, lifestyle, what you can do as a family person on an income that an average teacher makes? What can you do with your family on an income that a beginning teacher makes? And what could you have if you went into other areas such as engineering, medicine, law? What types of salaries could you expect for your talents if you went there compared with education and the drain has gone to the other areas because the students are making economic decisions for their future and the Legislature said it is time that we begin to put a state effort in helping draw some of the best minds and talents in education back to and toward choosing teaching as an admirable and desirable profession, and we did that by putting monies in. Every year since then on building the biennium