

court-ordered final judgments were one-hundredth of a percent. The only other thing that really did impact what schools had to deal with under the lid was special education, change in special education budget authority and increases in the formula, rapid growth for students. The second sheet also explains to you how many schools are within that range, and the basic allowable growth range...rate is kind of a statistical computation using a linear regression and every district ends up with a certain number. It might be 4.0, it might be .42, it might be .40, it might be .519, and that's what they use to set their budget. But you'll also notice the second category look...shows you the districts that added the additional one percent and that brings me to the arguments that Senator Schellpeper was making. You know, the original bill struck the unused budget authority and the supermajority one...supermajority vote to spend one percent more. Unused budget authority is one of those issues that can be good and bad. It allows a district to see the lid or the lid as in fact as a ceiling instead of a floor because if they choose to only spend 3 percent instead of 4 percent they get credit for that 1 percent. It's just a number that goes on the wall. It's not money that they collect, so it encourages them to spend less than they need to in years when they don't, but they have the credit for a year when they need it. And any time during the year if they need to amend their budget to use it, they can use it. The supermajority one percent also allows them some flexibility. If we drop schools down to a range of 3 to 5.5 instead of 4 to 6.5 we have a number of school districts that will vote that additional 1 percent and it is their local decision. But I see Senator Schellpeper has disappeared from the floor. I was going to ask him how many constituents attended the last school board budget hearing or how many attended the NRD budget hearing or the county board budget hearing. Quite honestly, one of the problems here is that local control only works if local people go to the board budget hearings and help control spending. But in my district and in my experience there are no people there at the budget hearings. I talked to a friend of mine from Oregon this last weekend...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...who finds our system of finance using property tax pretty amazing. They have to...they have to approve by a vote of the people their school budget every year until they can vote in a base for school spending and the only way you ever vote in a base is if you win the confidence of the