

setting of what the level should be for growth. And just putting some of the things down here that we've talked about already and some that we haven't, special ed funding, whether we should put that within the...keep it outside the lid or not. The tiers I know we're going to be working on, we just haven't gotten the bill and we're not going to get to that bill this session so the tier issue, which will make a big difference on how we fund education, will be one that will be up in front of us next session, I assume. The Legislature taking its responsibility more seriously on 1059 and actually each year looking at the data and setting the rates or at least determining if they wanted to keep the same rate or not. The Governor's Office actually submitting a budget that would fund it at 45 percent. The income tax rebate will be an issue that we wanted to get in front of us this session, but there simply wasn't a vehicle, which will make a big difference on what we do. In fact, if there is one issue that is causing disparity among the haves and have nots in education right now, it's the income tax rebate. I've been taking the purist route...route on that and saying we should just eliminate it and put all of the income tax into the funding mechanism, a general formula, but I suspect we're going to be something of a cap or try to do some kind of cap on income tax rebate. We've got all of the other issues that are out there. What I would propose to do is that we agree with the Withem amendment, keep, for the most part, education separate and next session, as we go into all of these other areas, look and see how these changes we're going to make, how it will affect school districts on whatever lid that we set at that point. Now it could be argued, I suspect, that we can do that anyway and that is true but I think philosophically it would be best not to have so much instability that again year to year they have no idea what the lid is going to be. I think we should go ahead and keep it as it is now and then next session when we get to all of those other bills one of the things that will be included in that is a discussion of where, with all the changes we're doing and going to do or going to try to do on income tax rebate, on the tier systems, special education funding, at that point is the proper time to talk about what level we should put the spending lids at. I don't think it serves us a good, it serves school districts well or the Legislature well to say we're going to lower the spending limits then get in all the major funding issues on education and then again next year maybe make a decision that by lowering the lid plus the changes that we're going to make that we're going to have to change the lid again. That's not very reasonable or I