

ongoing on four pilot projects that were authorized three years ago. Those projects are in Falls City, a very small community in Senator Vrtiska's district; in the Omaha Public Schools, it's a joint project between Omaha Public Schools, Head Start and Family Services; in Bellevue a joint project with Child Saving Institute; and in Gering-Scottsbluff and I believe that Senator Hillman is going to talk a little bit about that. There has been ongoing evaluation of these four pilot projects. It builds on evaluation that has been done longitudinally over the first early childhood projects in the country that had an evaluation component. That was the Perry Preschool Project and Senator Crosby referenced it a little bit. The longitudinal data out of the Perry Preschool Project indicates that children who are served in a high quality early childhood program, that for each dollar invested in those programs and in those children there are seven dollars saved later in reduced costs for incarceration and all kinds of social problems. The evaluation on the early childhood pilot projects is ongoing. That information is available for anyone who is interested and it's been... particularly the project in Gering-Scottsbluff has been shown to be quiet effective. The project in Gering-Scottsbluff is geared to teen mothers to keep them in traditional high school so that they get a tradition high school diploma and that providing high quality care for their young children. Out of the group of young women who participated in this program the first year, seven of eight of them graduated, five went on to college. Out of the entire group of young women who have participated there have been no repeat pregnancies. There are two young women who are going to marry the fathers of their children and at least one of them is planning on having additional children but it's a planned event and they have... So they have had pretty extraordinary results. The other... the other thing that's happened is that the fathers have been very involved in the lives of their children. The mothers are much less likely to be dependent on welfare and the fathers are much more likely to be providing child support for the children. So we do have some evaluation data. The reason that, as I understand it, that the Education Committee killed the bill that would have provided the funding, part of the argument was that it really should be continued through the appropriations process and also the committee struggled with having enough funding so that the... so that we could expand programs. My understanding is that there will be a significantly reduced amount that will go to the four pilot projects that exist right now and resources will go to other programs.