

they...and is successful in that experience that they can come back and apply either to the superintendent or to the board of education and they can be allowed to come back at an earlier date. I think that is extremely important, and I will tell you why. I doubt that we would imagine that a very young child might bring a gun to school, but I do remember that happening in Hastings. Certainly, it gives the flexibility for a local school district to that young child, they...you know, they may be four days in the principal's office in a tutorial, specialized tutorial program, and then would be allowed to come back. And so there is that flexibility there, and I think everyone needs to realize it. I also think that if any of you are having some concerns, if you would turn to page 2 and at the top of the page read what we are talking about that could be an alternative situation, and now listen to this. It can be, a program may be offered as a community-centered classroom and may include experiences for the student as an observer or aide in governmental functions, as an on-the-job trainee, and as a participant in specialized tutorial experiences or individually prescribed educational and counseling programs. I have said this before and I say it again that I think this absolutely allows the flexibility for school districts to come up with an educational plan that I don't even believe it's an unfunded mandate, because as school districts look at this, they can come up with a plan that doesn't cost them a dime. And so it's not an unfunded mandate. It's saying that we have a policy in the State of Nebraska that says when we expel a student, we do not believe that sending them home or sending them out on the street to get involved in more crime or gang activity or all of those things that certainly and, in fact, you know, may end up in our...in a prison and how costly is that? And, also, as I went over and asked Senator Wickersham the counties in his district and he talks about the cost of which I think there is no cost, if we don't do this, Banner loses, could lose \$35,745; Box Butte could lose \$255,361; Sheridan could lose \$246,014; and Sioux could lose \$56,071. So, Senator Bromm, when we are talking about a year when we are asking schools to make cuts, I think it is very responsible and would be a very deep cut if they no longer had this funding for Chapter I programs, and I know what you are saying is you're concerned about the cost of an alternative classroom, and what I'm saying is that this makes the schools look for ways, and I think creatively.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.