

SENATOR BOHLKE: Good, good.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...the tiers. Would you... I understand there is a bill in to do away with tiers. Would you explain where we're at on the tier system, because I'm...what I'm concerned about is the inequity between districts, the valuations per students as brought out by this one handout. I did get all the levies in the state, which I haven't had time to study. But would you explain some of the thought process that's going on in the Education Committee on the tier system and its validity at this point.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes. Senator Wehrbein, actually it's been something the Education Committee has started to look at a couple of years. And remember the study that we had done the Augenblick study of school finance in Nebraska. One of their recommendations was to look at going to one tier. I did introduce that bill this year, that would have a radical change to school finance reform. But when you do that the difficulty with it is how you weight, which weighting factors you give that one tier. The one that we introduced, by ca...sparsity, but it also has income. So you can do some of those types of things. And I...it is my thought that the Education Committee will take that on as a major interim study this next year.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One of my difficulties with this, and I don't know whether I have another question or not, but you may comment, is if we change...I'm inclined to do some things bringing the income in. I voted against 349, but I'm inclined to bring income in. Do you foresee, if we get into the change of the tier systems, that you would have different weights for different things including the income ba...and still concerned with school size? I don't have a good handle on the different sizes of schools. And here again, this article, this one passed out by Senator Bromm, really highlighted...I mean it looks like we're talking about the wrong subject today. We ought to be talking more about the tiers.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, whether you're talking about tiers or this bill, we're still talking...we'd still be talking about equity and what's most equitable. So they certainly have that in common. It's then how you get at those different factors to bring equity into the system. And so you can do things as far as the bill I introduced does not have size, per se. Like I