

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, it doesn't mandate it actually at all. What it says is schools do not have to automatically take siblings. They're not going to have to by law to take them, but they still could.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, okay. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, thank you, Macam President. Senator Bernard-Stevens, I want to focus a little bit on, on what this is costing your school districts. Now, I was looking through this yellow handout that was given to us a few days ago by the Education Committee, and it focused in on the actual spending on the student. And you have a couple of districts in there that are just spending an incredible amount of money per student, and that being this county center...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: What's their levy, Senator?

SENATOR ABOUD: I'm going to...I'll ask the question if I want to, I'm just commenting right now. On the issue of the actual spending on the student, where we're trying to determine the percent of the variance from the typical, you've got...you have some schools in your area that are spending a great deal of money on the per student. And you have one here, 13,000, another one 11,000, and my understanding of these option programs are that they try to make up for these students coming in to their district in the form of state aid. And the amount of money that they're spending on a per pupil basis, in comparison, let's just say, to some of the school districts in my area, let's see if I can find one here, I think you referred to Westside earlier, and they have a cost that is considerably less than that. And I'm looking at maybe, maybe the...maybe some of the concerns that you have with this option program, where some of your school districts are not having enough money to support these kind of option programs, may be based on the fact that you're spending so much money per pupil basis. Now, I'm not to say that that may not, in fact, be a proper approach when you're dealing with the education of our youth. Certainly, I think one of the top priorities in our society should be the education of our youth. And if that local school district so sees fit to spend \$13,000 per student here, and apparently