

give you \$1,300, or if 1050 goes it might be \$4,000. And so those districts then have option students, like Senator Abboud's district of 66, when we increase to \$4,000 in 1050, they multiply all of those option students they get by \$4,000. In my area there's a net loss on option students, we get zip. But they still have to take the sibling if they're closed, even in the elementary. It's not a financial matter, it's simply a policy on how we treat school systems in a time when we're asking them to reduce.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Madam President. I think this will be the last time I'll speak on this particular amendment. The issue that I guess we're trying to...that I'm trying to focus in on is the actual per pupil cost. And when you're looking at the big picture of the cost of education, and again this relates a little bit to this whole philosophy of property tax issues and what will happen if the voters so approve the limitation on the property taxes, where we won't have any more property taxes, we'll be faced with the situation of having to fund all of our schools' costs. And when we're looking at the per pupil cost, we're looking at what it costs to educate that student. Now I don't care if the student is in a Class I or a Class II or a Class III, they still have a per pupil cost. Now when you're looking at that issue, there's a bottom line cost. Now there may be only five children in a particular classroom for that teacher. Well, obviously, the per pupil cost goes up. But that doesn't...I think that's the most accurate viewpoint of how we determine the efficiency of a particular school district, that's one of the factors, I should say. And certainly the per pupil cost, when you're making comparisons of the options, the determination of what the actual student cost should be was based, at the time, if we look at these numbers here, they're awfully darn close to what typical school districts would be, which is around the \$4,000 range. And when we talked about those types of issues, I mean that was one of the discussions that took place when we originally set up this option program, what should be the exact number. Well, obviously you have variances in each school district. Some school districts, like the one in Senator Bernard-Stevens' district, there is up to 13,000 per student, and you have other school districts at the bottom of the list which are much, much less for a number of different reasons, depending on the philosophy of that local