

you received that was handed out by Senator Bohlke, it offered a breakdown starting from the top on actual spending per student and I assume it involves putting the numbers together as to how many students you have in your school district, how expensive your buildings were to construct, whether you have... your operating expenses. It all gets figured in and then you divide it by how many students you have and then you figure out how many... what the cost is per student. And, in looking at some of these numbers, we've got some school districts in the state that spend an awful lot of money on the students. Up at the top of the list was Crofton, spending around 18,000. One of senator... I think, well, the different senators, one spends 12, one spends 16 thousand. Morrill County there's one, 14,000; 11,000 a couple of the schools in Lincoln County. Rather sizeable amounts of money that we're spending on each one of these students. And so when you try to figure out what is the best possible amount that you can spend on each one of these students and we try to look at that issue when we get into option students and students that come into that district and you try to figure out, well, should we pay for each one of those students the amount that Crofton spends on each one of these students, or should we look to the bottom of the list here at some of them that are spending a much, much less amount? Now, we talk a lot about quality of education and what is the right amount that we should be spending each year so that our students are properly educated? You have different approaches. Back in Washington, DC, they spend in the neighborhood of eight to nine thousand dollars per student, rather sizeable amount, but it's... you can argue it's more expensive back there. Well, it's a little bit more difficult to make those kind of arguments when you get into these rural areas because obviously the labor's got to be less, the expense that you have for the structures are much, much less, and so you have a lower cost of providing the services to those students, but we still have very high costs. And in this whole debate I've wondered what is the proper approach on what is the right amount that we should be spending on these students? Shouldn't the focus maybe be on some of these school districts that have these high expenses? Instead, we're focused in on the issue of money and whether the school districts should be spending or how much our school district is getting financially. Now, in our debate we've spent a lot of time talking about whether or not this is the right year to be doing it. We all know that there's a great deal of pressure from the public to reduce our property taxes and if we don't do