

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 27, 1999 LB 144

percent tested at or above proficient in mathematics. What does that mean? Seventy-six percent didn't. On science, in grade eight, 35 percent scored above; 65 percent didn't. I'm very encouraged by the amount of debate that we're having on this. I would like to see everybody participate in debate on this and I would like to see everybody assess what we're talking about here and to determine, before you vote, is this the way to do it? You know, we had students up in the gallery this after...or this morning with some of their teachers. To one group, the students, we owe a duty. The other group are people that the school districts have hired to fulfill that duty. But an education is not something akin to buying an automobile or a TV set, because there, if you buy a lemon, you can take it back to the manufacturer, and we can't do that with these children. Once they go out and face the world, as I mentioned earlier today, we have either done or not done what we have a duty to do. The only way that we can find out whether or not we are performing our duty as we should is by testing the results and acting on the test. And if the students in the eighth grade are failing, 65 percent of them, to be at or above proficiency in science or math or reading or any other subject that you want, then we have failed in our duty and the teachers have failed to do what they're being paid to do. Now, in business, if you have someone who fails to do what you are paying them to do, you change them.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: You get rid of them. You get better workers in. These results, if this is what we're going to have a reprise of, are terrible. But on the map in the front of this thing, I don't know how many of you took the time to look at it, the map in the front of this thing we get a gold star. We got a gold star for failure. Some states, Texas is one, Colorado is one, some of the eastern states got two gold stars, but we don't know how badly they failed to do what they had a duty to do. And on this basis, I don't see that we're doing anything here that improves the situation at all and I urge that you really think about it before you vote on this amendment, because this amendment is the bill.