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LB 144

want to...I know other people have some questions. But if a school is picked and they decide they don't want to participate, are they required to?

SENATOR BOHLKE: No, and that was actually the problem before is that there were some smaller schools. This was following LB 1114, as I understand it. They were upset with what the Legislature had done, what was happening with their funding. And when one of the small schools, smaller schools said no, they could not find another smaller school that would reflect that school, and so we were not able to participate.

SENATOR VRTISKA: That was...that was...one of the problems that bothered me was if, in fact, some of the smaller schools, who are pinched financially and don't think that they have enough money to do this, how you going to get them into the mix. And I guess that I would think that it would be a...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Now they have the money.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...hopefully, fair if they all got into the mix.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, now they have.... The money is not the excuse now.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Then the \$220,000 that you talked about for the report card,...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes. And we had talked about, originally when we were discussing this bill, that rather than the one test, if we were really interested on the public knowing how schools were doing, compared statewide, things like how many teach...how many of your teachers have a master's degree? How many days do your teachers miss school? How many days do your students miss school? How do your students perform on the ACT? Those types of things that we talked about, you would...there would be your report card versus the statewide report card.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, then some of these tests are actually going to be about the...actually be testing the teachers, as well as the students, is that correct?