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Assessment, those only measure about 48 percent of our standards. And so we...if we want to assess our standards, we have to do something additional.

SENATOR DIERKS: And by standards, you mean different parts of the curriculum?

SENATOR BOHLKE: The standards that the State Board, that the schools...the work that the State Board did on the new standards, and all the subject areas that the schools now are adopting. The answer, why go to all the work of the standards, if you do no assessment, to see if we're really improving.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. I thank you, Senator Bohlke. I've had objections to the NAPE testing program ever since I've heard about it. Perhaps it's changed a little bit, and that's fine. I'm concerned, once we get the foot in the door with the NAPE testing program, that we may have difficulty removing it...that foot. And I have a little problem with doing that. I have been involved with school issues for most of my life, I guess, in part for myself and in part for my children, and in part when I was on the Education Committee here. And I've...I've always watched the testing process. And I thought they did an adequate job. I wonder sometimes...well, like I said...asked Senator Bohlke, why we really need to make a change? And if we're only getting 40 percent of the assessment that we need, there probably is the need for a change. Who, I wonder, makes the...makes the decision on what the percentile is that we are receiving, and who makes the decision on what testing is going to be done? Those people should be one and the same, I would think. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members. Senator Dierks, Buros Institute, in Lincoln, Nebraska, is recognized throughout the nation. Schools send their tests, testing companies use them to see if their tests meet the certain criteria, whatever that may be. And that's who the Department of Education used to determine the existing tests in Nebraska, if they would adequately provide the assessment for the standards. And that's when the Buros Report came back to them and said, they do a