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SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Do...do the...does the federal government provide any funding at all for these programs?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, yesterday we heard a speech by Secretary Riley that said that he would be supporting, in the budget, an increase of up to 40 percent to states. Currently, we receive federal...we do receive some federal money. Most of our federal money is directed towards the preschool years.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well I think all of us recognize that this is a needed service that we have to provide. And I was just curious because I'm not...I'm not suggesting, because they mandate it, we shouldn't pay for it. I'm just suggesting, you know, many of these programs are important and we have to attend to them. But sometimes you get concerned about the level that you require. And I'm really curious about the types of programs that you're required to provide. Do we actually provide any more than is mandated, or we just cover the bare necessities in that regard?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Vrtiska, typically, what happens is you have a meeting with the teachers and the parents and you develop an IEP, Individual Education Plan. And you pretty much follow those federal guidelines. I don't...I'm not aware of anyone that exceeds those federal guidelines, because the federal guidelines of...are very specific in making sure that the children, like I said, have the least restrictive environment and that the education that they need will be there for them.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I appreciate that. Those are just things that I...as we talk about this, that come obviously to your mind. I...again I support the bill because I think it's important particularly, and it does in fact provide some property tax relief for the people who are having to now provide this service. And so I support the increase up to 5 percent. I'm, I guess, pleased that you took some of those amendments out, because I didn't understand them anyway. (Laughter) Now I think, with what you've told me and the discussion that's going on, I have a very clear picture of where we're at, and as a