

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

February 23, 2000 LB 1243

because of the state and federal mandates. And as Senator Bohlke mentioned, the least restrictive environment is certainly one of those and has actually increased our demands on our tax dollars, on both the state and the local levels. I do have a chart that I thought might be interesting to share from the legislative Fiscal Office, that in 1999, the local percentage spent for special education in the state of Nebraska was 30.5 percent. The state's share was 57.5 percent, and the federal share was 12 percent. And, as we said, the bill that we considered in 1995, when we set that cap at 3 percent, we can see that those costs are increasing, and we've talked about by just adding the additional cap to 5 percent that we would be getting closer to the mandated amount. And, Senator Bohlke, I do have a question for you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: We talk about, and I've seen it in some of the literature, that there is a mandated 90 percent of allowable excess costs. We talk about...is that...is that true? I saw that in some of the testimony and I know we're talking about right now it's about 83 percent, is what schools are paid. So...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Stuhr, at one time, the state had made a commitment to schools of...

SENATOR STUHR: Okay.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...of reimbursing to 90 percent.

SENATOR STUHR: At one time, but that's...that's no longer on the books?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Schools may argue that we never really hit the 90 percent, but certainly we've been decreasing.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay.

SENATOR BOHLKE: But originally, way back when I was on a board