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sparse over standard to more than a 31 percent advantage, and I would submit to you that that difference is likely to continue to increase. Let me give you one reason why. Currently in the formula, if you had a situation where the number of students in any particular cost group dropped in half because of reduced enrollments, the current formula would provide that the cost per student allowed would double. There's a sort of an automatic ratchet built into that. This has a number of implications, but certainly one of them is equity among systems, and another one is incentives for reorganization, which is another part of the formula. If you are a small, by choice, standard system, for example, and you're wondering what to do about your plight, as you look at your options comparing reorganizing by combining with another standard system or trying to figure out how to get yourself reclassified as sparse or, better yet, very sparse, it's clear what it is you're going to try to do. And last year you will recall we had legislation introduced and passed in the Legislature to reclassify some school systems from standard to sparse.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Finally, I would mention as...well, a couple more issues. One of them is the minimum levy penalty, which is a part of our current formula. The number of systems that incur the minimum levy penalty has gone from 32 in the last certification to 52 this year. This is becoming an increasing problem. Finally, I would mention that the teachers' salaries, building maintenance, but particularly this year teachers' salaries compensation has been a significant topic. To the extent that you find it unlikely that there will be big sums of money available at the state level to send out with strings attached to address these requirements, an alternative is to address these requirements through the needs calculation. This would involve a gradual and systematic allowance for funds to local systems to address these requirements...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...while respecting local control and local participation. So, again, these are the issues...