

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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Because if we do not pass LB 812 what happens as amended, the amendments we will bring to you, we would have one test statewide that would be purchased from a company. In my discussions with the commissioner, what I told you last year remains true, that there was a point in time when I decided we were after two different things. We in the Education Committee I believe were after public accountability for our schools. The commissioner was after were standards making a difference in the classroom? And so at one point over these years we were on the interim tour and came across a report card that one school district was providing. And those of us who are interested in public accountability thought that the report card accomplished that. Last year you funded that, and if I could have a Page, I would distribute to you what will be the report card that will be becoming before the state where schools will be rated according to high performing, average, or above average, average, below average. That all fits in with the commissioner's plan that I can answer questions on that issue later. But the public accountability besides the report card in thinking of coming to you today, I still had a problem in saying to you, yes, we're going to have real accountability with one common measurement. The commissioner's multitest that districts may develop certainly fits, I think, what he has outlined as important to the state board determining if their standards are making a difference. And so with subsequent amendments what we will eventually get to is something that I will propose to you that says we in the Legislature are still interested in pursuing accountability with the public. And one common measurement that we could use is writing, a writing assessment. And so eventually with the amendments we will be proposing one test statewide using writing assessment, three different grade levels, one in element...the first year, an elementary grade, a middle school grade, and a high school grade. Those...that test has been piloted in 50 school districts. There's a rubric developed and schools are graded eventually. I think there are six components that they have a grade rating of one through four. So every school will report to the general public how their students performed on a writing assessment using the grade rating of one through four, every building. Now there have been some rural people who have been interested that schools have to report every building and this would...every building would report that grade. They then as a district would report to the