

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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district, the board shall develop an assessment system for the subject areas of reading, mathematics, science and social studies and history. The assessment system for reading will also be implemented in 2001, so in 2000-2001 school year. So we will begin with a writing assessment in the 2000-2001 school year, one test across the state. At the same time, the department will be starting at that same time with their reading assessment that has the multiple test approach. The district shall report the aggregate results of any assessments required by the board on a building basis to the public and the district and to the State Department of Education. And then the department shall report the aggregate results on a district or building basis as part of the statewide assessment. As I've said, there have been times people have been very interested and thought it was very important, not only sometimes people in our rural areas, but I know Senator Chambers had indicated to me that he was very interested in knowing building by building how students were doing. And you can imagine maybe in your districts that it would be interesting to your patrons to know building by building how students are doing with one common test. But then when it's reported to the State Department of Education and finally comes out on the report card, it would be by district. Obviously, with the number of buildings, there are over 1,000 buildings, it would be very difficult to put that out in one state report card. A requirement is added that the State Board of Education to adopt and do the rules and regulations and references to the state standards are removed in one location and replaced with subject areas of reading and writing, mathematics, science, and social studies and history in another. And the mandate for participation in NAEP is removed. The references for the standards being removed clears and clarifies that anything the Attorney General Opinion may have with regard to the State Board of Education and their standards have absolutely no direct relationship with LB 812 and I think clears the way for us to proceed and go ahead with LB 812. And so I know many of you may have questions. I would...in my opening I said I think I introduced the one test in 1996. At that time, I offered an amendment to have a writing assessment. And at that time, I think I said on the floor of the Legislature I thought that that was one of the most important things we could do. It's been a long road, a long journey to this point, but most, the commissioner, members of the state board, school districts