

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

March 23, 2000 LB 812

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I'll use your bullet sheet then to ask a question. I don't totally understand and I'm just trying to grasp the general concept of this. You're going to start out with writing, but it starts in here; then the board shall develop an assessment system for the subject of reading, math, science, and social studies and history. Is that a stairstep situation where you do writing and then you're going to do a reading state test? And then I also don't quite understand how that relates to the national test. Senator Stuhr mentioned that there would be a national standardized test and a localized test which you also have here somewhere that there will be...maybe it's assessment. So I just want a little broadening of what you're saying there so when I have to repeat this I'll be somewhat accurate.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Let's talk about what's going to happen in the classroom in the year 2000-2001. As far as the national standardized test, children are usually or students come in and at some time during the year they will take what I said we're most familiar with, the Iowa Basic, California Assessment, one of those. So this says that that will continue to take place. In addition, we will be testing reading through the department with allowing school districts to develop a criterion reference test in reading. That will be looking at the department's concern if standards are improving in the classroom. That same school year we will have one writing assessment at three grade levels, one in the elementary, one in the middle school, one in the high school. That will be one single test, the same test statewide that will be given; and those results will be reported building by building to the patrons with grade ranking of how their school did on a scale of one to four.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR BOHLKE: The multiple test, but then the schools will report that say you have ten buildings in your district. The...they will report that to the Department of Ed by district instead of building by building and then that district score will eventually end up on the statewide report card.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Now you've done writing now. How does the