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the closing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may.

SENATOR BOHLKE: The amendment that we are currently on is the part of the bill that goes to the writing assessments. With the adoption of this amendment, every school will use the same writing assessment across the state; the first year for three grade levels. The next year it will...the department will select one grade level, and the next year a different one, and then the next year a third one, and then back to the base line of three grade levels. So they will report building by building in your communities as to how each building scored on the writing assessment on a scoring number of one to four. So if you go to Lincoln schools, you have your children going to a Lincoln school, Lincoln school will report on the writing assessment to their public how they...their students scored. If that Lincoln school happens to be in Hastings, Nebraska, Hastings, Nebraska then will take each building that...and how they have scored, turn that in, a complete and average score, to the Department of Education as to how the Hastings Public Schools, as a district, scored. But the people in Hastings, Nebraska, will know how the students did in each building. I think that answers the question, some of the questions we've had on the department's plan about using a multiple test. This, I think, answers that and says we will have one common measurement. That common measurement will be the writing skills that those students have and we will know building by building what those are. As I said in my opening, writing is an indicator of how students are doing in all other subject areas. If you were going to pick out one thing to say this reflects how a student is doing, there's certainly always exceptions, but generally you would have an idea of how students were doing in those schools with a writing assessment. That is AM2784. I would hope that you would agree that we have, as a Legislature, said we will have, to the public we will have our schools be accountable. The one test seemed to be fraught with all kinds of problems. I believe the writing assessment is a fair one and one that generally people across the state are interested in knowing how the students are performing. Thank you, Mr. President.