

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

March 27, 2000 LB 812

past. (Laugh)

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: (Laugh) But is that some of the discussion that would have occurred at the State Board of Education? And realizing that you're...you, you know, didn't participate in that, but I'd like to know what are the reasons for us changing us, this amendment or your amendment the other day, changing where we're going? I mean we've never worried about making people mad before.

SENATOR BOHLKE: No. (Laughter)

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So I give the rest of my time to you, if you'd like to comment on that, because I'm a little bit frustrated at this point.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. The concern, as I remember it, was that curriculum development, setting those curriculum guides, have always been a local issue and that we, when we set those local standards at the state board level or above that that can allow the flexibility for schools to...and those school boards to develop in and draw in the community, and across the state that's happened, I would say, with a majority of schools. I can't promise you the number who have not done standards, but I want to tell you I said earlier I asked on another piece of information that would be an indication, and so I would say that it would be...I think I could guarantee to you that it would be less than 10 percent of school districts in the state who have not set standards at the state level, at the state board or above. And so they would argue that it's working; why do you have to mandate it? Now, there would be those school districts who, perhaps, have not adopted the standards and this would solve that issue for those school districts that have not. But that's...that the school districts felt that they could go about it in their communities with people coming in with their school boards, work on the standards, include their staff, and that's...that's the direction they went. That's not saying if you put out a state mandated one the same type of thing couldn't have happened, but it's already occurred in most school districts.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, that's...