

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

March 27, 2000 LB 812

100 percent of the standards, even the vague worded standards that we have now. And, Senator Redfield, your assertion that lawyers take one test, medical people take one test, that's the end of their learning cycle in school. They certainly don't end learning at that point, but learning in school. These are ongoing assessments of where they are on the continuum of learning. These are not at the end of learning. This is, are they up to speed? Are they doing what we want them to do? Are they at the level where they will succeed in later grades? In order to do that, the second grade teacher has to tell the kindergarten teacher what she wants and what she expects that kindergartener to know by the time they reach her or him. Teachers have begun to start talking with each other and know the consequences of their continuing of learning. They have to know, the kindergartener teacher has to know how to prepare this child as he goes on through school, and each year what he's capable of learning and what is important that he know by the time he gets to the next level of learning. And in order to do that, we must assess multiple times and have multiple different kinds of tests. One statewide test tells us one thing--what that child is doing on that day in that particular area. I don't think it tells us really much of anything, and to rank schools and have them accredited or not accredited on that one test seems really high stake to me. And I don't think that that is the way that we should go and certainly the commissioner doesn't feel that way. He's made that abundantly clear to the Education Committee on several occasions. And we have tried to listen carefully and have listened for a long time and have tried to be educated on the different kinds of assessments, and I think this example of norm referenced and criterion referenced shows you the difference in multiple guess and in actually...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SUTTLE: ...telling what you know and how you know it. And I think it is very important that we look at writing and that tells us where the child is by way of knowing they can or cannot express themselves, and we know that if we can't express ourselves, we can't succeed out in the business world. So I am against AM3092. Senator Beutler, as much as I know that you are having your heart in the right place and really feel strongly about this, we have listened also to the other side from