

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

April 3, 2000

LB 812

grade levels, I suppose, but as far as doing assessment, they do that at three grade levels, and those standards. The point being, how could you test standards, if you weren't even making sure that schools had to have them?

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So, I...I...yes, I agree with that. Well, let me continue on. Now, the writing assessment, I think you mentioned last time that the statewide writing assessment did not involve standards. But, as I hear you speaking now, that isn't the case, that we do in fact having writing standards or will have? Is that correct?

SENATOR BOHLKE: I'm sorry, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: You...is...I remember you saying, last time, when you were talking about the statewide writing test, that this was, and the discussion actually came up in connection with whether or not we're mandating standards or not. And your response then was that this did not involve the use of standards, the writing test. But I hear you saying now that it does involve the use of standards?

SENATOR BOHLKE: After we mandated the standards, we had taken out all references to standards in the original amendment, because we weren't mandating them. Once we mandated them, the standards are back in.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So we're...we're going to have a single statewide writing test that's going to be based on standards for each of the three grade levels?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Correct.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. A couple other questions. Now, the part about sort of the free-for-all assess...well, free-for-all is not a good word, but everybody has their own assessment the first time around. Then we settle on five models. Now, again, back to standards, I'm a school system, I can adopt either the state standards or a set of standards that are more rigorous than the state standards. Is that...is that what the requirement is?