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SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. And the reason we're mandating standards is so that we can have an assessment based on the standards. Is that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: We are mandating the establishment of the state standards so that students can be measured against the state standards and local standards so that if the school district chooses they can also measure against local standards which may be somewhat different. They may want to measure them not with the same test, but with a different test or maybe not even with a test but...

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, that's what I'm getting at. When you...you're narrowing this down to five and then four models, and maybe my problem is I don't understand what a model is. But if a model is a test where you're pitting knowledge against standards, then if you allow several different standards in effect, several different levels of rigor in standards which are in effect sets of standards, wouldn't you need a lot of different models in order to allow that sort of testing?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I think that a key thing that we've done in the bill, Senator, is that the tests have to test the state standards so there's only one set of standards that's being tested against as far as the interest of the state is concerned. The local school district may have an additional interest in testing other aspects of their local standards...

SENATOR RAIKES: But isn't that a difficulty given that the idea of this multiple assessment was to contribute to the educational experience? So now we've got some school systems that really may not have a whole lot of interest in the state standards because they have locally decided to choose higher standards, but yet they have to go through the exercise of testing against state standards. To what end? I guess so that they can be compared to other schools. Is that the end that we're after here?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, I think that one of the things we're after is to be sure that everybody is meeting some minimal sort of state...of standards. From the perspective of those of