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happen to know where that is?

SENATOR MAXWELL: The numbers I've seen usually put us at 44 or 45.

SENATOR JENSEN: Okay. And that same question, where do we stand in the nation in the cost per student spending?

SENATOR MAXWELL: I'm going to say, without having figures in front of me, that we're sort of middle of the pack. Of course, it depends on the district. You can find some districts in this state where the per pupil cost is 10-15 thousand dollars, but on average I'd say we're probably in the middle of the pack.

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, thank you, and I do want to say I appreciate you bringing this forward. And one thing that we do in government quite often, we look at it at the biennial year. This is the budget year, so we'll look at the next two years out. We take a brief glance in the out years but we don't go beyond that, and every other business entity and, yes, people say that, well, you can't run government like you can a business, but still businesses will look at a five-year plan, a ten-year plan and look out a few years. We don't do that here in the state. But certainly to look at the out years and look at where we're going, and it's just like I had looked at Medicaid and said that we just cannot sustain Medicaid growing at 14.5 percent per year. And from your figures that you're presenting, it also would appear to me that we cannot afford to do the same thing that we're doing. Now it may be, what Senator Raikes is talking about, that we can make a change there. I do know what other states are doing. I do know that Iowa, for instance, in their Legislature this year, says that any school district that has less than 200 students must merge, simple. I do know that Arkansas, which has about 338 school districts, the Governor is saying he wants to cut that down to 121, one-third as many school districts. And it would seem to me that if we are paying teachers, we rank about 43rd in the nation,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...and yet on a per student cost we are in the