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LB 540, 680

going to be able to adequately educate their students for them to go on and compete in this big, wide world that we're living in. It was brought to my attention just today that many schools offer a given mandatory subject once in a year. One period is all that's offered. And if a student can't get that into their schedule, they don't get it at that point. And so we're going to run into the dilemma that many schools, and they don't have to necessarily be smaller; they could be as much as two and three hundred in a district, are not going to get adequately educated to face today's and tomorrow's challenges. It's one of the reasons that I'd make a strong pitch for adequate funding to K-12 and higher ed as we go forward. And it does obviously become a budgetary issue. So part of the study will show...will try to get eventually at the efficiency of delivery, and it may not make everybody happy. And there's some that's challenging this and say it's a consolidation. We can go at that many ways. One is just to simply bleed or take away resources of schools, and not...and have them forced into that. But I'm trying to look at it this way, to see what it takes to adequately provide the education that children all over the state need; not just in the larger cities, which have their own problems, but those in rural areas that are shrinking in population but still have a mandate to adequately educate those kids. And so I'm proposing this study. And I think now it's going to end up in a resolution form rather than a bill, because I'm not going to be able to get my LB 680 up here at all, even though it's prioritized. And it probably doesn't really fit. I don't want to bog down LB 540 in that discussion, but believe there will be some sort of a study this summer. I don't know how broad it will be. I intend for it to be as broad as possible. Right now, maybe do it in two or three sections, one to determine what is...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...essential education for our young people. Two, then how is that best provided it in a most efficient way? And then, three, how are we going to finance it and get more...wring more value out of the dollars that we spend on education? Some will misread that. In fact, I've already got enough e-mails to show that they think I'm looking at mandatory