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have a lot of quality public school institutions across the state. And I'm grateful. There is the issue...again I emphasize, there are as many different reasons for the existence of Class I schools as there are Class I districts. Now, there is a new reason I heard from Senator Stuhr that Class I schools shouldn't exist, and that's because we have paved roads. That is a new reason to me. But nonetheless, I'll try to keep an open mind. When we look at local decisions by a larger school board, by a larger district, I suppose you could still call that a local decision, but it does eliminate several players from the game. What our schools lack most of, regardless of size, I think, is parental involvement. Enlarging school districts, research will show you, decreases parental involvement. We now see urban areas in the East Coast, who are looking at research and determining that a kindergarten through 5th grade environment, or even fewer grades under one roof, is not as effective as a K-8 environment. It's come full-circle. I know that Senator Stuhr hasn't had any Class I districts in her district for some 40 years. But there are a lot of things in society that come full-circle. Education is one of those, where it's oftentimes back to the basics. And I'm grateful that the constituents of my district, at least for another six months or so, have a choice of where to send their children. Choice in larger cities exists if you have money and you can send your kid to a parochial school. But anytime we can provide some options, based on our 1989 option enrollment engagement here in Nebraska, there are some options. I don't think we should take those away, especially when quality education is not part of the discussion. But when you think about a kindergarten through 8th grade environment and how it attracts more parental involvement, which I think is the best tool in increasing quality education, it also increases responsibility and accountability by 7th- and 8th-graders when they are around the kindergarteners.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: It's a good situation, and especially, especially, when there's the option to go to another district. You take Lincoln Public Schools, for example, and just the options that exist among the various buildings within the