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student statewide is \$7,900. Here's a very good school, but it's large. It's called Lincoln Public Schools. Their average is \$8,030, not so much higher. Oak Valley, which is a Class I that is in my district--and of course it is just an elementary school--their costs are \$6,265 a student. I asked one time, all right, you're just telling me the costs of the Class I district compared to the Malcolm cost, which is \$7,500--so they're below the state average--and I said, you're talking about K-12 versus K-8 or K-6 or whatever your particular school is? And I was told, no, turn the page on the report that you were given. Oak Valley's students K-6, compared to Malcolm's K-6, Oak Valley is still doing it for less cost per pupil. We've been told and told and told that this bill does not force schools to close. Perhaps not. But when you have a school that is costing \$7,500 per student, and then you have a school that's costing \$6,200 per student, wouldn't Malcolm be really silly not to absorb or take in all of the students from Oak Valley? Not only do they get the increased valuation, but those additional students are going to make a difference in that particular school's state aid. I have seen figures that say just the Malcolm public school will be getting over \$350,000 in state aid because of those new students. Now, on the reverse side, let's say you have...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR HUDKINS: ...a Class I that is quite expensive, and you're forced to be assimilated into a larger school. Wouldn't it be silly for the larger school not to get rid of that one that's costing so much? Again, they get the increased valuation, they get the increased state aid. So you take all of those additional state aid dollars, and it is going to cost more, at least in that respect. We'll talk about some more later. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Baker, followed by Senator Erdman.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I listen to this discussion and hear a lot of hand...or, see a lot of hand-wringing, and it won't work, it's an emotional issue,