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SENATOR BEUTLER: As I'm reading the bill, on June 15, 2006...and that's the day, is it not, when they become a part of a Class II or III school district, generally, right?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's right, Senator. That's the completion of the process, if you will.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So as of that date, it's a...it's one unit school district. And by protecting the elementary attendance center within that school district, we're actually interfering with local control of schools, which we don't normally do in the internal affairs of a district, right? Like, in Lincoln, the school board can say which elementary school is open and closed, which high school you can go to or not go to, that sort of thing.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right. This would be a change, and I think you've characterized it correctly. This is an interference with the authority of a local school board. But it was done in the interests of transition, and I think as you pointed out earlier, done in the interest of preserving communities or patterns of behavior in a local community, or however you might like to describe it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Let me ask you about one example which illustrates, to me, the protective measure that you've blended into this. With respect to this particular issue, first of all, if you have a certain number of students, resident students, and if you have six grades, as I figure it, it turns out to be 15 students, and if you have eight grades, it turns out to be 20 students. Is that...

SENATOR RAIKES: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...more or less accurate?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. If you have that many students and you're located within the boundaries of an incorporated city or village, there is absolutely nothing anybody can do to close