## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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black student, a green student, doesn't matter, if there's room they have to be accepted. The writer says that we do not need the number of school districts that we have. Is this writer an expert on this situation? I don't think so. We need the number of school districts that the local people think we need. The writer also says that only 3 percent of the student population is served by Class I's. So? What difference does that make? Shall we also say then that since there's a Wal-Mart on the edge of town that we close the local hardware store, lumberyard, greenhouse, watch jewelry store, grocery store? Because in Seward, Nebraska, probably a lot of people go to the Wal-Mart, but those local main street stores are a choice, and that's what we want for our students. We...Senator Stuhr said that there were 13 schools with no students. You know what, folks? likely those schools will close in the next year. I want to read you a section from the Revised Statute of Nebraska. Section 79-232 to 246: The Legislature finds and declares that parents and legal guardians have the responsibility of ensuring their children receive the best education possible. recognition of this responsibility, the Legislature intends to provide educational options for parents and legal guardians, when deciding what public school is best for their children, by allowing them to consider the following factors, including, but not limited to: the size of the school and school districts in the area; the distance children have to travel and the ease and availability of transportation; the course offerings extracurricular offerings; the quantity and quality of staff; the performance of the school district on any indicators of performance established by the State Department of Education. The Legislature also finds and declares that desegregation and racial integration in the public schools are of critical importance for the future of this state and that those school districts with desegregation plans may, as authorized, adopt standards which deny the educational options for parents and that such school districts are not required to consider in denying those options any of the factors in subsection, and it goes on. So these Class I's are not private schools. They are taking the children that want to come to their school. talked yesterday about the graduation rates, and the way I explained it was not the best, so I'm going to just try again. I asked the secretary at the Malcolm Public...