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

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Latino students were not listed in the ELL countings because some of the children could speak English rather well. We talked about budgets...well, let's just talk about a Dawson County school with a high-budgeted per-pupil cost. Senator Raikes mentioned this one. It was District 17 in Dawson County. their budgeted per-pupil costs are around \$11,000. That budget was based on last year's student enrollment. And they just happened to have 12 additional students this year. So actual spending this year will likely decrease by the same amount, 28.5 percent, that the amount was budgeted for. But if that would close, the state...the school spend...Lexington would spend \$8,000 per pupil. And that's above the state average a little bit, but it is \$500 per pupil less than Lexington Public Schools. So Lexington is spending more than the state average per pupil. Senator Raikes cited budget costs per pupil in six Class I districts near Lexington, of \$9,500 to \$11,000, but failed to mention the budgeted cost at two of the districts nearest Lexington. They are District 22, where the '04-05 budgeted per cost...per-pupil cost is under the average, at \$7,070; and District 16, with its cost of right at the average, \$7,874. I think this is selective disclosure. have heard from Senator Raikes about all of the high-spending schools. Never mind that we have also given you some of the reasons for that high spending. So Senator Raikes' spending numbers were overinflated, just as his numbers of poverty students in the Class I's nearest Lexington were under-inflated. My question is, how can you sit in an office in Lincoln and judge Class I's clear across the state, when you don't know the rest of the story? Another Dawson County Class I, near Gothenburg, has an '04-05 budgeted per-pupil cost of \$6,500, one the lowest in the state. That school probably has something to teach us all about educating efficiently. But this bill, LB 126, would eliminate the school entirely, and it would be another minority eliminated. If we're able to get these then Senator Raikes certainly could have. research, if not the motivation, of LB 126 is questionable. fiscal note is full of vague math and assumptions, even though the bill has stood for ten months. I am not criticizing Fiscal. They prepare their reports based upon the information that they are given. Our independent fiscal analysis of this bill is that Class I schools in Nebraska use about 7 percent of the state's