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a school where they had the distance learning that was in cooperation with three or four schools around them?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, I have.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. I was fortunate to attend one of those also. What is happening now? I know I was listening to you, Senator Stuhr, and you said, that contract is going to be up, that funding is going to be up. Or, what's the real problem?

SENATOR STUHR: That's true. About 120...it's my understanding that about 120 of those schools are connected, because they received large amounts of federal funding to enable them to change the equipment and go ahead and continue with their distance education opportunities. We have about 180 school districts...or 180 schools left that will need some updating, because their contracts are about...and I don't know. They begin to expire, it's my understanding, in 2006. So what we are bringing forth is that we need to at least be on the alert, that this task force will come together, see how we can continue to connect, and with a new technology. And with all due respect to Senator Brown, we have both been here 11 years, and I think we all know that technology has changed a lot, and also increased in cost because of the new developments. But those are some of the problems that the schools are being faced with now. And what was proposed is that this is going to be a three-year project. And maybe it will be a four-year project, or whatever that task force might decide. But something needs to be done.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. But realistically, you know, what is...I know there's, you know, an upgrade in technology. But when I viewed the classroom setting between four of the schools in my district...well, one of them was in another district...but to me, I don't know, what would realistically be the upgrade on it? And why can't they continue with the program that they're doing right now with the telecommunications? Could you answer me that, Senator Stuhr?

SENATOR STUHR: Well, Senator Stuthman, it is my understanding that they have what they call a JPEG video technology that they're using now. And when that contract expires, that