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LB 425, 577

simply don't have more state money to support those programs. That would be one kind of a waiting list and that would be a prioritization at the department level based on, well, in the LB 577 case, the number of at-risk children served, for example, as well as certainly some other criteria. But you might also look, and maybe this is what you're talking about, in a given community we have a certain number of children with a need for or desire for this...need or desire or both,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...for this particular kind of a program, and we only have...we don't have as many spaces as we have children who want in. There has to be a prioritization there. I can't give you anecdotes about that, but I'm sure that's the way it has to be done.

SENATOR JENSEN: Is there a way or a method of determining then our...is this...are the dollars working out? Do we have a baseline? Are we able to determine that, yes, this program is effective? Yes, I've read some of the studies that would point that it is, but do we...will there be set up a method of actually seeing how the program works?

SENATOR RAIKES: There is an evaluation process that takes place in the department. There are specific criteria. I don't have those in front of me right now, but I will get them for you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Raikes. That's all.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Fischer.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I think it's important that the state does step up to its obligation in funding special ed. This is a tremendous cost to districts and it's growing every year with the needs of these students. I do have some questions on the child...early childhood part of this amendment, if Senator Raikes would yield to questions, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a question from Senator Fischer?