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LB 425, 577

you have local programs, usually with staff involved, in a district, and then it takes funds from that district to continue with the program. And with funds tight in many school districts across the state, I would say the majority of them, if not all, there's a shortage of funds, and when you start new programs, no matter how laudable these programs are and how needed they are, there's a limited amount of resources. I have another question, if Senator Raikes would yield, please.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR FISCHER: The last line on the handout says to move four-year-olds to state aid after three years of grants, beginning in 2007-2008.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.

SENATOR FISCHER: Does that mean after three years of grants the grants are up for that district? You can't...you no longer can receive the state money?

SENATOR RAIKES: No.

SENATOR FISCHER: I thought you just told me before it goes on. What does that mean?

SENATOR RAIKES: No. Of course, we've not had a provision up to now that would allow four-year-olds to become included in the state aid formula. Our proposal in LB 577 is as follows: If you have a grant program, an ongoing grant program, for which you were receiving \$50,000 per year of state funding through the grant program, and let's say your four-year-olds became eligible for the aid formula and \$20,000 was used or came from the aid formula, then you would still be eligible for \$30,000 through the grant program, so that the total state contribution to that program would be held harmless, so to speak.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Senator. My concern on that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.