

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

March 15, 2006 LB 1060

find another way of funding them. But I don't think you can argue with the success of the program so far. It's been phenomenal, and I just...I'm not going to read all of this, because it will just be a bunch of facts and figures, and you'll say, ho-hum. But just one example of reading scores and their improvement for the Winnebagos--the Santee aren't included because their data is masked, due to low numbers--but the Umo N Ho N, and Walthill. In the Winnebago, grade four, in 2000 their reading scores were 48.53 percent. In 2005, they were 86.71 percent. In grade four (sic), it was nearly an identical increase. In grade 11, it was 70 percent, almost 71 percent, to 91 percent over that five-year period. For the grade four at Umo N Ho N, it was 24...25 percent to 76 percent; in grade eight, 33 percent to 70 percent; grade 11, 15 percent to 70 percent. And at Walthill, grade four, 28 percent to 78 percent, almost; grade eight, 49 percent to 87 percent; in grade 11, 39 percent to 91 percent. I mean, those are phenomenal, phenomenal increases. I could go over all the mathematics and the test writing, or the state writing test scores. They would indicate similar kinds of advances at all of the schools in all of the grades that were tested. I think that that's...I think that was money well spent, and we ought to continue it. The other thing that's so neat about what's happened is that they've got a program now to encourage Native American students to go into teachers' training, and as a result, from the year 2000, at Winnebago, there was one Native American teacher in that school; in 2005, there's now four. On the Santee Reservation, there were no Native American teachers in 2000; in 2005 there's now one.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: At Umo N Ho N it went from 1 to 11; two of those are substitutes. One to 11--think about that. At Walthill it was zero then, and it's zero now. They haven't made much progress, but a total...the totals go from 2 teachers in 2000 to 16, plus there's 4 new, and only new ones, at the Little Priest Tribal College and at Headstart and so forth. I think that's phenomenal. There are 15 potential teachers now in training, 15 potential Native American teachers in training. That's going to make a tremendous difference in those schools,