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FLOOR DEBATE

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year goes for the teacher loans, is that the fund that deals with the unification process?

SENATOR RAIKES: No,...

SENATOR FISCHER: No? Okay.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...Senator, that was a two-year program that the Legislature put in place two years ago, I think, and it was basically a program to offer support for, or compensation for, however you want to describe it, for school districts that are going through a reorganization. It's just a two-year program, and what you're referring to is the last year of that program. It goes away after 2006-2007.

SENATOR FISCHER: Where did the money come from before? Did it come from the lottery?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah, all...

SENATOR FISCHER: And now we're just putting it into the pot here under the distance education?

SENATOR RAIKES: Right. As I mentioned, the Education Innovation Fund is lottery money, and what we're talking about here is how we allocate that lottery money to various programs.

SENATOR FISCHER: Can you tell me how much lottery funds, how much is brought in for different programs dealing with education, and if you see that increasing or decreasing?

SENATOR RAIKES: I can give you at least some rough guide on that, Senator. I think that over the past several years it's been roughly \$8 million to \$9 million, meaning that the total amount of lottery funding annually has been something around \$17 million, \$18 million. Half of that goes to...or, roughly half of it goes to education. As you know, we made a change here last year so that some of that now goes to the State Fair. But I think a working number for planning for education programs is \$8 million a year.