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that now exist sort of around the edges of the distance education consortia so that school districts anywhere in the state can see and communicate with school districts anywhere else in the state. So I know the term "flattening" is sort of in vogue these days, but in effect you would be flattening the state so that technologically any school district can see and communicate for coursework exchange with another school district.

SENATOR COMBS: Okay. Thank you. One more question. How does the legislation ensure that students are going to get additional services for all the money that's being spent?

SENATOR RAIKES: And a good question, and the legislation relies very heavily on individual school districts and their devotion and dedication to the education of those students. This is not legislation that forces individual school districts to do any particular thing, nor does it say to school districts we, the state, are going to buy something for you and pay 100 percent of it in the hopes that you'll use it. This is...this is an arrangement where we as a state are providing school districts the opportunity and hopefully advantageous terms for them to participate in this and, if they do participate, to provide real and legitimate financial incentives.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you. One more question. Has the state of...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...Nebraska gained assurances from the Universal Service Fund that what is being proposed would allow the state of Nebraska to continue to receive the millions of dollars of assistance for telecom services under the E-rate?

SENATOR RAIKES: The E-rate, I am confident, is assured. Now you mentioned the Universal Service Fund...

SENATOR COMBS: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...and this proposal does not do anything, take