

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1024

about over \$20 million that will be put in the form of state aid to address these high-need students, and I think there has to be accountability. I know Senator Howard is also very concerned about the accountability, and it has been mentioned that already OPS spends more per student than almost any...well, than any other school in the area. So how is this additional money going to be put to use? I think that's something that we all need to think about. I think another concern is that,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...as I said, we are talking about 100,000 students, that we don't bring down the education achievement of other students while we are trying to address the needs of particular students in the OPS area. Senator Bourne is coming on the floor, and I do have a couple of questions that I might address. I believe it is important. I thank you for bringing your amendment addressing diversity. You talk about defining racial and socioeconomically diverse student population. Exactly, you know, what would that be? How would we reach that? Do you have some idea?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne?

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. I never define that, and what I'm saying is, is that we in the Legislature, frankly aren't qualified to define that. That is why I believe the learning community, the overarching board that...to which all the school districts in the metro area would report to, should have...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...the authority to define such a term.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Well, thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Don Pederson, followed by Senator Thompson. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,