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see this issue, would you see this as...this equalization, this funding being used for a purpose for the state, a more general purpose regarding the students?

SENATOR RAIKES: I'm not sure I follow your question, Senator. Are you talking about the common levy within the learning community and its implications for statewide finance or policy?

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, my question really is...and I'm sorry if I'm vague. I'll have to try to phrase this better to be...to have some more clarity in it. But the levy will result, no matter what the levy is, that amount of money will come from property tax, is that correct? I mean the source of it, when you boil it right down.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.

SENATOR HOWARD: So if we take that then and look at that money that's going to be used for educational purposes for all students, is this considered a state purpose, since education funds come from the state, it's governed...the educational program is governed by the decisions made by the legislative body for the state, and is the levy going to be used for a state purpose?

SENATOR RAIKES: No, the levy is to support the local school system.

SENATOR HOWARD: But isn't that the state? Aren't we ultimately responsible for that? And I know it's local in that many of the decisions are made locally and by the school boards, but ultimately isn't this the state that is responsible?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, it's a shared responsibility between the state and local districts, and the local property tax is the local share of the financing of the school districts.

SENATOR HOWARD: Okay. I think I have a better concept of this. So that the levy, the common levy would be divided by the committee, no longer being called a board, now called the committee, they would...