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not cost-effective, that we're inefficient schools. Here's a printout that takes a school district with the same number of pupils in it that Omaha Public Schools has. I'm not doing this to pick on Omaha Public Schools because I don't want to do that. I don't want to pick on Omaha or Lincoln. I'm just doing this for comparison. This school district, this perceived school district that's on the map there that you see is centered in North Platte. It goes from South Dakota to Kansas. It includes 42,354 pupils. Omaha Public Schools has 41,737 pupils. The cost per pupil in the North Platte district is \$5,027. The cost per pupil in Omaha is \$5,030. We do it three dollars less in the North Platte district which includes Broken Bow and Valentine, and you can see the district there. We have a statewide dropout rate of 3.01 percent. Omaha Public Schools has a dropout rate of 7.3 percent. In my particular conference, the Niobrara Valley Conference, and most of you have met those superintendents because they've been very active in opposition to this bill here, we have a zero percent dropout rate. This school district that you see here in the center of the state has 31,707 square miles. Omaha Public Schools has 333 square miles. So we not only educate our children less expensively in this district than they do in Omaha, but we do it traveling great expanses of miles to do it. Transportation costs are exceedingly expensive there. These figures came from the University of Nebraska and from the Department of Education. They're valid figures. One of the things that people keep telling me is that we're not efficient. I think that efficiency is measured numerous ways, more than just in costs. I think efficiency is measured also by the number of students that graduate, by our dropout rate. It's measured in the ability...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: It's measured in the ability of our students to perform as mature and responsible adults when they do get out of school. We have a way of life in that North Platte district that's second to none. You cannot dispute that. Children that are born out there come with a work ethic that's second to none. They're in demand every place in the United States for their working ability. When they come through these colleges, people plead with them to come to the east coast and west coast because they know they're going to get paid well for their...they know