

SENATOR HARTNETT: Do you know what besides the ACT scores that they are using, or tests that they are using?

SENATOR VICKERS: As far as a test is concerned, I think that's the test that they are planning on administering.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Is that going to be the...that's the end all?

SENATOR VICKERS: That won't be the only measurement, no, Senator Hartnett. First of all, the first thing that they are doing is that they've gone to each town and they have had a workshop in that town where they have brought, not only the school folks in, but the townspeople as well and basically, through a round table type discussion, as I understand it, tried to get the community to begin to think about what it was that they really expected from their school system, as a community. And then...in other words, to assess what it was that they wanted out of their school system and then they've got a survey that they are going to do of the whole community once they develop some of the questions from this assessment with these folks. Then there will be a continuation of those meetings and then, of course, at the end, also the test will take place but the test will be designed to measure those things that the community itself has decided is the important quality things that they want their school systems to do, as I understand it. So it is more than just tests.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Of course, I...to me, Senator Vickers, that's some things that the school system should be doing on their own without asking for state funds. They should really be finding out what is the purpose of schools in their community.

SENATOR VICKERS: I don't disagree with that, Senator Hartnett, but the fact is, we've never measured. This is to try to set up, design a mechanism whereby we, as a state, will be able to say it works in the small system, it worked in this larger school system by having these measurements. Now we're going to base our whole accreditation process, Rule 15 will be changed to reflect this whole process.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I think we need more than these.

SENATOR VICKERS: We haven't done that in the past. Now I