

give credits for such asinine ridiculous courses. I mean, it would have been great if it was just to keep these kids occupied in the summer and give them that little something extra, but to actually allow that to be a credit towards a diploma I found deplorable. Do you know if they had to get that approved by our Department of Education or can public schools anywhere go ahead and offer those kind of courses for credit?

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Higgins, public schools can offer those courses as they desire and it is not and never has been anything that the Department of Education had any control over as to what they allowed as far as credits toward a high school diploma. What we have done in the past and what we're doing right now is we require a certain number of courses be offered and that's the number of courses that I refer to and those courses that we require are what we called a basic curriculum. You know, we require math, we require so many courses of math, so many courses of science or English, geography or history and those kinds of things. We do not require those...I guess you could call them vocational programs if you will that you're referring to and that is not part of the accreditation standards. And in defense of the previous...the accreditation standards right now, it's probably the only measurement that they have been able to use, quite frankly, to require a certain...in other words, what I have used in the past is that what they have said is that we are going to require you to...

SENATOR HIGGINS: Excuse me, Senator Vickers, I can't hear you.

SENATOR VICKERS: I'm sorry. We're going to require you to make certain that there is water in the tank, but we haven't as yet developed a mechanism to make sure or to measure how much they actually drank out of that tank would be a good analogy. In other words...

SENATOR HIGGINS: But what if we just said that they had to drink pure water and none of it...

SENATOR VICKERS: That's what we're trying to do.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...full of mud.

SENATOR VICKERS: That's what we're trying to do with this