

'87-88 to 19.8. And then I guess after we passed our teacher stipend bill, the one that provided the \$20 million, they came in with figures that showed that the ACT score actually dropped to 19.6. It's their figures. I just don't see what the point is of bringing in these comparisons. I mean we all realize that we have problems with our educational system. And we have problems in this country when we compare math, science scores with countries such as Japan, Germany, France, Netherlands we tend to fall to the bottom. Now we're in a global economy, and we can make comparisons to our educational system to New York City, or Los Angeles, or Iowa, or Kansas, or any of those states, but we're not competing against those states anymore in an educational system. We're competing against Germany, we're competing against Japan. And I really feel that we have a fantastic opportunity here today to do something a little different, and that is use this money for a performance-based system. It apparently hasn't worked too well to begin with. And I would be willing to vote for this bill, if this amendment is adopted. This bill is going to have some real rough sledding here, I think, getting advanced, maybe not advanced, but I know it wasn't included in the Governor's budget, it's a part of the 1059 budget, and it's going to have a tough time getting passed. And if we try something a little experimental, if we take a little bit of a gamble, if we can go back to our constituents and say, yeah, we have some educational problems, and yeah, our ACT scores have consistently dropped, decade after decade, but we tried to do something. And Senator Lynch pointed out to me that originally, when they had that \$150 million that was to be appropriated, partially for property tax relief, partially for more money for teachers, they did have \$15 million for this performance-based system. And I think out of that entire appropriated amount, maybe that \$15 million for a performance-based system was what we should have gone for. Let's face facts, teachers have lifetime tenure. Let's give them a little bit of an inducement to perform to the best of their ability every single day they walk into that classroom. It's probably...it's probably a system that, I think, might make some difference. And it might not make a difference in our entire ACT scores across the state, but it might make a difference in some of those kids that have some of those teachers. Maybe one or two of those kids will come out of this state and invent something that will help the entire state. Maybe that kid will be someone that will become a doctor, save some lives. It's tough to judge educational systems, because it's so far. I mean a person that has a good teacher in the