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Debate Stalls on Nebraska School Funding Formula

(KTNC) - Debate on state funding for Nebraska public schools was suspended Monday after hours of futile effort in the legislature. Education Committee Chairwoman, Senator Kate Sullivan of Cedar Rapids, told colleagues that the legislature has been put on notice that reshaping the school funding formula would not be an easy task. (play audio :19)

Speaker Greg Adams says the school funding formula is complicated by the fact that residential property values haven't grown the past five years while farmland values have grown by double-digits. (play audio :07)

Talks are underway to resolve differences. Adams encouraged senators to listen to both sides of the debate as well as school superintendents in their districts. (play audio :14)

The bill before the legislature would increase state funding to public schools by 5-point-5 percent over the next two years. Debate will resume after negotiations to try to resolve some of the differences that arose during Monday's debate.

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