

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 15, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 963** in its entirety.

This bill would create a new legal standard for infringement on certain rights for parents with regard to their children.

As a former science teacher, principal, and state superintendent, I know that parents are the first and best teachers our kids have. We know we can improve our kids' academic achievement when parents are actively involved in their kids' lives, including supporting their education. During my time as an educator and administrator, engaging with parents and family members about their kids' education was invaluable. That is why, as governor, I trust parents, educators, and school boards to work together to do what's best for our kids.

Unfortunately, this bill is another in a string of legislation aimed not at supporting our parents, our kids, and our schools, and fostering those relationships that improve student outcomes, but at dividing our schools. Politicians on both sides of the aisle have to stop using our kids as political pawns. I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to sowing division in our schools, which only hurts our kids and learning in our classrooms. Now more than ever, especially after these past few years, our focus should be on doing what's best for our kids, improving school quality, and supporting our classrooms. I continue to urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to make meaningful, sustainable investments in K-12 education so we can ensure our educators, staff, administrators, and school boards can maintain robust communication and collaboration with parents and parent involvement and improve outcomes in our schools. By providing long-term state support for our schools and bolstering staff resources, we can better empower and facilitate parent engagement, which is critically important for our kids' success.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor