



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 29, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 917 in its entirety.

This bill permits teacher preparatory programs to require between one and four semesters of student teaching (instead of only one under current law), provided the institution of higher education that offers the program awards general education credit for the second, third, and fourth full semesters. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to separately report teacher preparatory program results for: (1) all students and graduates of the program; (2) students and graduates of the program who completed one semester of student teaching; and (3) students and graduates of the program who completed more than one semester of student teaching. The bill also requires the department to create a teacher apprenticeship program for students participating in a teacher preparatory program that must include between two and four semesters of in-classroom student teaching.

I object to this bill because it is unnecessary. Our administration has already created existing teacher apprenticeship pilot program, a collaborative effort between the Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Public Instruction, and this bill will interfere with that pilot. The bill creates uncertainty with Department of Public Instruction student teaching requirements and undercuts the Department of Workforce Development's authority to approve and oversee apprenticeship programs, something they historically have managed with great success. It also may cause confusion regarding when and how the State Superintendent can recognize longer periods of student teaching in non-apprenticeship teacher preparatory programs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers
Governor