
State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor

December 3, 2021

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am vetoing **Senate Bill 463** in its entirety.

This bill effectively requires school boards to maintain on their website a list of and bibliographic information for every piece of material assigned, distributed, or presented at any activity or course at every school in the district and in every classroom of every grade level for every subject area, with very limited exceptions, and to update that list no less than twice each school year and to provide a full text or copy of the material created by the board or a teacher employed by the board. The bill includes no appropriation and provides no additional resources or staff support to ensure school districts can implement these requirements.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to this bill's failure to provide the necessary funding to implement these measures. I have and will continue to urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to provide sustainable, long-term state support for K-12 education so we can ensure our school boards, administrators, educators, and staff have the support and resources to further foster communication and collaboration with parents and promote parent involvement.

I trust parents and school boards to work together to do what's best for our kids because we know we can improve academic achievement when parents have the opportunity to be actively involved in their kids' lives, including supporting their education. I know how powerful family engagement is in kids' lives, and as an educator and administrator, I greatly value the opportunity to engage with parents and family members about their children's education. By providing the necessary, additional funding and bolstering staff resources, we can better empower and facilitate parent engagement, which is essential for our kids' success.

Additionally, under existing federal law, every school district already must have policies and procedures to make sure parents can request access to instructional materials being taught to their kids. Nearly all school districts also have policies and procedures to address parents' concerns or complaints about instructional materials being used in their kids' classrooms. These are essential measures for promoting parent engagement while ensuring transparency in our classrooms.

Finally, this bill exempts independent charter schools and private schools in the various parental choice programs likely funding mostly or entirely by state and local tax dollars. We should be working to improve transparency and accountability for every parent, regardless of which school their kid attends.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor