

## GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

March 29, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 510** in its entirety.

This bill would establish a new legal standard for infringement relating to certain rights of parents and guardians and create a civil cause of action with regard to those such rights.

As a former science teacher, principal and state superintendent, I believe parents are the first and best teachers our kids have. There has been no change in my position in the two years since this bill was last sent to my desk and vetoed.

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. As governor, I trust parents, educators, and school boards to work together to do what's best for our kids.

This bill is neither aimed at supporting our parents, our kids, and our schools, nor improving student outcomes, nor fostering collaboration and communication to do what is best for our kids; this bill is yet another attempt to divide our schools and communities and inject political ideology in the very last place it belongs—in our classrooms and our schools. I urge politicians on both sides of the aisle 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, the Wisconsin State Legislature's focus should be on doing what's best for our kids, improving school quality, and supporting our classrooms by making meaningful, sustainable investments in K-12 education. 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
*TONY EVERS*  
Governor