

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

April 15, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 970** in its entirety.

This bill eliminates income limits and participation limits in the Parental Choice Programs and creates an unfunded \$1,000 per-student education account reimbursement program.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to the drastic impact it could have on families; according to the Department of Public Instruction, the impact on taxpayers in a school year could exceed \$500,000,000. It is remarkable to me that many supporters of this bill, who commonly express concerns about property taxes when it comes to supporting more than 800,000 public school children in our state, are apparently unfazed by the fiscal impact this bill could have on families due to the way these programs are funded.

Similarly, I object to creating a new reimbursement program with no designated state funding source. While courses offered by approved educational providers may benefit students, the bill contains no appropriation, oversight, or accountability to implement the \$1,000 reimbursement for educational materials.

Finally, I am vetoing this bill because it could jeopardize the state's Maintenance of Effort obligations related to the receipt of over \$2 billion of federal funding for public and private schools by increasing K-12 expenditures without increasing higher education expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor