



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 903 in its entirety.

This bill requires school boards to annually submit a report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) on the presence of a gifted and talented program coordinator and their time worked on gifted and talented programming, the number of gifted and talented pupils that received gifted and talented services, demographics for each pupil, and any other information requested by DPI. Under the bill, DPI must annually report on its website for each school district (1) the number of pupils evaluated to determine if they are a gifted and talented pupil; (2) the number of pupils identified as gifted and talented pupils; (3) the number of pupils who received gifted and talented program services (unless doing so would jeopardize confidentiality) and pupil demographics; (4) DPI's determination of whether or not the school district complied with the state's gifted and talented law; (5) the services and activities provided to gifted and talented pupils under a gifted and talented program; and (6) whether the school district employs a gifted and talented program coordinator and if so the amount of time that person spends on the district's gifted and talented program. Further, DPI must include on its website the statewide pupil participation rate in advanced placement courses, and for any entity receiving.

Further, the bill adds to the Department of Workforce Development's teacher training grant program a purpose area to award grants for professional development for teachers serving gifted and talented pupils. Along with the other annual reporting responsibilities added by this bill, DPI would also have to compile and publish on its website the services and activities provided by such grant recipients to gifted and talented pupils. Further, the bill would require DPI to audit for compliance at least 10 percent of school districts selected at random, in addition to including information on compliance with gifted and talented requirements on school report cards.

We have worked diligently over the course of the last three years to make meaningful investments in our kids and our schools after a decade's worth of cuts to education, returning our state to having the 8th best pre-K-12 education system in the country after dropping to 17th just five years ago. I also support the gifted and talented pupil program. For example, in my first biennial budget, I proposed more than \$1.5 million over the 2019-2021 biennium to support gifted and talented education. The Legislature removed that investment from my budget.



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I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to this Legislature's failure to increase investments in an already underfunded program while simultaneously adding new mandates without the sustainable, long-term funding necessary for implementation. Wisconsin, even after doubling the amount of gifted and talented funding in the current biennium, still provides far less to gifted and talented programming compared to neighboring states. This bill does not address this concern, and instead, potentially exacerbates it.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tony Evers".