



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 968 in its entirety.

This bill creates the Charter School Authorizing Board (CSAB) consisting of the State Superintendent, two members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the State Superintendent, and six members appointed by legislative leaders. The CSAB is attached to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and may authorize independent charter schools, funded in the same manner as those chartered by the UW System Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO).

I am vetoing this bill because I object to the Legislature's continued efforts to inject partisan politics and micromanagement into our education system. Specifically, this bill creates an unelected, unaccountable board to authorize and supervise new charter schools in Wisconsin, in violation of Article X, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution. The framers of our constitution vested the supervision of public instruction in the State Superintendent, a constitutional officer elected by the people of this state. Here, the board would not be accountable to the State Superintendent or voters of Wisconsin. Instead, the bill allows Legislative leaders, who are not elected by the entire state, to appoint a majority of the eleven board members.

I further object to complicating our school funding system by creating yet another state-level charter school authorizer. Currently, funding for students in an OEO authorized independent charter school is provided through state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) and a corresponding state general aid reduction to the resident school district of a child attending such a school. While the resident school district is allowed to count the student in their membership for revenue limits and state general aid purposes, they are generally not made whole for the state aid reduction, which can result in higher property taxes for residents in those school districts. This funding system results in inconsistent financial impacts on property taxes and overall public school resources with varying relative costs per pupil and relative property value per pupil.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Evers'.

Tony Evers  
Governor