



Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 8, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 998 in its entirety.

An Early Literacy Curriculum Council within the Department of Public Instruction was established under 2023 Wisconsin Act 20. The council, among other duties, must recommend to the department early literacy curricula and instructional materials annually for grades kindergarten to three. This bill would provide that, beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the council would only need to make such recommendations every three years instead of annually. The bill would also modify the timeframes under which the department reviews and submits the recommendations to the Legislature. Instead of 30 days, the department must within 14 days submit the council's recommendations to the Joint Committee on Finance, including the department's recommendations, which may not be the same as those of the council, and distinguishing between such recommendations.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to lengthening the timeframe for the council to make curriculum recommendations. While I appreciate that the bill may ease some of the burden on the council to produce recommendations on a compressed timeline, a three-year recommendation cycle may make it difficult for school districts to keep pace with revised and new curricula offerings. Materials that are purchased in one year may not align with the council's later recommendations, leading to increased costs for school districts and the undermining of the intent of Act 20. Therefore, I must veto this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Evers
Governor