



## WISCONSIN GOVERNOR'S VETOES OF EDUCATION BILLS HARM MILWAUKEE'S MOST UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

Alexandra Caro Campana and Alexander Wilgocki | October 18, 2022

### WISCONSIN GOVERNOR TONY EVERS VETOES BILLS DESIGNED TO HELP CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- ★ In April 2022, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers [vetoed 28 bills](#) passed by the Wisconsin legislature spanning a variety of topics with some focused on education.
- ★ **Several of these bills would have improved education for students across the state**, especially those in underserved communities. These bills would have:
  - Prohibited the teaching of Critical Race Theory at the University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Technical College System.
  - Established a Parents' Bill of Rights, which would let parents determine which names and pronouns their children are addressed by in school.

*The Governor's vetoes of parental rights legislation give parents less control of their children's education.*

### DECLINING EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS

- ★ Last month, the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) reported that test scores for grade school students in Wisconsin have been declining since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ **Less than half of Wisconsin students in grades three through eight were considered proficient in math and language arts in 2022.**
  - This is a roughly 10% decrease from 2019 in the number of students considered proficient in these subjects.
- ★ Since 2019 in Milwaukee, 38% less students are proficient in math and 24% less students are proficient in language arts.
  - **Only 10% of Milwaukee students are considered proficient or higher in math, while just 14% are considered proficient or higher in language arts.**

*Only about 39% of Wisconsin students scored proficient or higher in math on the spring 2022 Forward exams, while only about 37% were proficient or better in language arts. The Forward Exam is intended to test how well students are doing compared to the Wisconsin Academic Standards.*

### MINORITY CHILDREN ARE HARMED THE MOST BY GOVERNOR EVERS' VETOES

- ★ The latest test results continue to show [disparities in scores](#) based on race, income, and other factors.
  - "In Milwaukee, **just 7% of students considered economically disadvantaged tested as proficient in math and 10% in language arts...** compared to 24% of their peers in math and 33% in language arts."

