



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

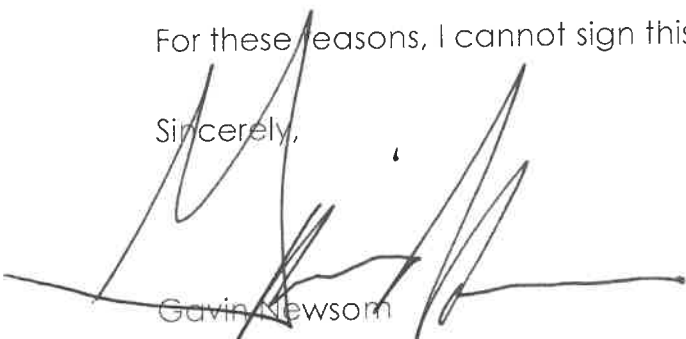
I am returning Assembly Bill 917 without my signature.

This bill requires certificated employees in school districts and county offices of education with less than 250 average daily attendance to be granted permanent status after two years of employment and reelection for a third year, consistent with employees in larger local educational agencies. The bill also allows service as an instructor in certain regional occupational centers or programs (ROC/P) to count toward permanent status in a school district and makes conforming changes to employment, dismissal, suspension, reassignment, and contract provisions.

This bill, while laudable in its intent, eliminates many of the flexibilities established for small school districts in light of the unique circumstances. I am concerned this could have the unintended consequence of undermining the educational entity's ability to best meet the needs of its students — especially since permanency is an issue that can be addressed through the collective bargaining process. Further, by limiting a ROC/P's ability to respond nimbly to changing regional workforce needs, this bill is inconsistent with my administration's focus on ensuring the state's education and workforce training programs are aligned with workforce demands.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

