



What is the Climate Justice Education Bill?

The Climate Justice Education Bill ([SF 476/HF 2297](#)) reads: *the commissioner of education must, in consultation with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, environmental organizations, teachers, and other qualified experts, provide a climate justice model program for elementary and secondary school students aligned with current scientific research... A model program must include climate justice content that: is scientifically accurate; is age, disability, and developmentally accessible; is inclusive of underrepresented students; encourages sharing and comprehension of climate justice stories; and is grounded in and intersectionality on:*

- (1) human activities causing climate change and the risk to all life forms;*
- (2) climate change's disproportionate effects on communities facing systemic oppression, specifically Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color; people with disabilities; and low-income communities globally;*
- (3) the relationship between systemic change and accessible environmental stewardship; and*
- (4) the growing number of economic and environmental solutions, which should be led by communities most impacted by the climate crisis.*

Why is the Climate Justice Education Bill Important?

Students are asking that climate justice be taught in our schools

Students around the country are [demanding](#) they learn about climate change in their classrooms and throughout their schooling. The first two versions of this bill were written by Minnesota high school students and this version is being stewarded by students from [Youth Environmental Activists \(YEA!\)](#) and [Youth N' Power](#).

Education is critical to implement our greenhouse reduction and environmental justice goals

To support and sustain our climate goals we must ignite and activate our students with a comprehensive climate justice education. Climate justice education integrates science and traditional ways of knowing, centers the persistent inequities experienced by socially and racially marginalized communities, defends the needs of youth and frontline communities, and focuses on solutions rather than fear. A [research study](#) has even shown a link between education and greenhouse gas reduction.

There is support for education on climate change

According to the [Yale Climate Opinion Maps](#), 76% of Minnesotans believe schools should teach about global warming.

There is precedent

Around the country, [States are mandating](#) climate change education be taught. Washington, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maine are just a few states that have recently passed legislation that includes funding and training for educators.

New Jersey has created a resource hub for educators and the general public to access when it comes to teaching Climate Justice which can be found [here](#). We hope to have a similar model in MN that teaches Climate Justice in an interdisciplinary way for all educators and all students.

How to Get Involved and Support

Show your support for climate justice education in Minnesota's schools!

1. Follow the [bill's progress](#).
2. Ask [your Senator](#) to support the bill.
3. Ask [your Representative](#) to support the bill.
4. Check out our [toolkit](#) for scripts, research, and other advocacy materials!
5. Submit written testimony to b.rosas@climategen.org
6. Show up at the next hearing (TBD)