



Ethnic Studies for All

(HF1502 Sencer-Mura, SF1476 Kunesh)

Minnesota's K-12 student population is rapidly becoming more diverse, but the classroom learning experience in our state does not yet reflect our student population. Students of all racial and ethnic identities in Minnesota would benefit from instructional content that better reflects the diversity of their classrooms and their communities.

The Ethnic Studies for All legislation (HF1502/SF1476) offers the opportunity to **bridge the ethnic and cultural divide in Minnesota classrooms by incorporating ethnic studies instruction** for all students. The Ethnic Studies for All legislation would:

1. Require ethnic studies instruction in all K-12 schools, starting with high school students who would be required to take an ethnic studies course to graduate;
2. Create an Ethnic Studies Advisory Working Group composed of a diverse array of educators, students, and community experts to advise MDE on ethnic studies content and standards and to develop model ethnic studies curriculum;
3. Provide support to aid school districts in the development and implementation of ethnic studies curriculum, tailored to their community needs and interests.

All **students deserve to see themselves** – their own cultures, communities, and histories – within their education. It is no surprise that studies have found that when students' experiences and backgrounds are reflected in their curriculum, they become more engaged in learning, they have a greater sense of belonging, and they achieve better educational outcomes.¹

Students of **all racial and ethnic identities benefit** from Ethnic Studies. Today's students are growing up in a more globalized and interconnected world. Ethnic Studies invites students to more deeply explore the many diverse cultures and histories within our state and country, and in doing so gain a better understanding of themselves and their classmates. Ethnic Studies equips students with the knowledge and perspectives to live and lead in a more diverse, globalized, and interconnected world.

Over 30 school districts across Minnesota currently offer Ethnic Studies courses.² Two of Minnesota's largest school districts – Minneapolis and St. Paul – recently implemented Ethnic Studies graduation requirements for high school students. Twenty-one states around the country have introduced bills to require Ethnic Studies or multicultural history for K-12 students. These school districts and states recognize that Ethnic Studies benefits entire student populations. HF1502/SF1476 would ensure that **all Minnesota students are able to benefit from Ethnic Studies in their classrooms.**

¹ For example, [in a study of three San Francisco high schools](#) over five years, enrolling at-risk ninth grade students in an Ethnic Studies course resulted in a 21 percent increase in attendance and significant increase in student GPAs (by 1.4 points). Graduation rates and college enrollment were also markedly higher than comparable students who did not take Ethnic Studies.

² MDE MN Common Course Catalog

Members of the Minnesota Ethnic Studies Coalition

Asian American
Organizing Project



CAAL



Climate Generation



Coalition to Increase
Teachers of Color and
American Indian
Teachers in MN



Education for Liberation
Minnesota



Education Evolving



Education Minnesota



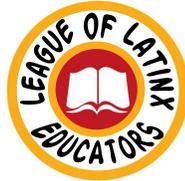
Ed Allies



ISAIAH



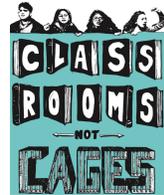
League of Latinx
Educators



Minneapolis Federation
of Teachers 59



Minnesota Educators
Against ICE



Minnesota Zej Zog (MN
Zej Zog / MZZ)



Saint Paul Promise
Neighborhood



Unidos MN



Voices for Racial Justice



Youth 4 Ethnic Studies



YoUthROC

