



Tim Lutz, Superintendent
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"...where each child is valued, life-long learning is embraced, and students are empowered to become Red Lake Nation ambassadors in the global community."

When the Children thrive, the Nation Thrives

March 3, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Bennett, Co-Chair Jordan, and Members of the House Education Policy Committee,

I am writing in support of HF3557 which would establish a Minnesota Seal of Climate Literacy (Seal), a voluntary high school diploma distinction that gives students the knowledge and skills to understand—and act on—the challenges of a changing climate.

Red Lake School District ISD #38 supports this Act because it:

Prioritizes experiential learning: At Red Lake, we believe in supporting our students in developing tangible, future-ready skills that will enable them to be successful in their future educational and career opportunities. Students earning the Seal will put their learning into practice here in our own community through hands-on, experiential learning projects – such as fieldwork, an internship, or a student-led capstone. The Seal distinction will signal to colleges and employers that Red Lake students earning the Seal have valuable skillsets and life and work experience.

Responds to student demand: As a district serving a large number of Native students, we recognize that environmental stewardship and connection to the land are deeply rooted in our community's values and traditions. Our students are already engaging in climate and environmental learning grounded in place-based knowledge and cultural understanding, and they deserve recognition for that work. By establishing a formal diploma distinction, the state will provide our district with a framework to recognize and reward the coursework, hands-on learning, and real-world projects that our students are already undertaking, and increase access to climate learning in our schools. Red Lake would be excited to implement and confer the Seal of Climate Literacy to our students who meet the requirements.

Maintains local control and adaptability: As a Local Educational Agency, we appreciate that this voluntary framework will allow us to align climate literacy education with our own educational priorities and specific community needs. The flexibility of the Seal of Climate Literacy framework makes climate education accessible and applicable in Red Lake and in every corner of the state.

Thank you for your leadership in helping equip the next generation of Minnesotans in Red Lake with the future-ready skills and knowledge they need to be successful in college, careers, and beyond.

Sincerely,

Tim Lutz
Superintendent, Red Lake School District ISD #38