



Minnesota Education Protection Bill

HF 3409 and SF 3803: Expanding Plyler v. Doe Protections

February 23, 2026

Purpose

This bill ensures that every child living in Minnesota has equal access to a public K-12 education free from discrimination, intimidation, or exclusion based on actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status.

It reinforces the principle that **schools are places of learning, safety, and opportunity for all children.**

Going beyond *Plyler v. Doe*

The Education Protection Bill goes beyond the landmark Supreme Court *Plyler v. Doe* decision protecting the right for all students to access a free and public education regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Specifically, the Education Protection Bill expands safety and protections in the following ways:

- Protects against threats of disclosure of immigration status of children or families based on perceived or actual immigration status
- Prohibits disclosure of immigration status of children or families based on perceived or actual immigration status
- Ensures schools and districts have policies and procedures in place so staff and families are prepared to respond to requests from law enforcement and immigration enforcement

These new areas of protection are outlined in Subd. 3(d) and Subd. 4 of the bill.

In expanding these protections, **the Education Protection Bill aims to reduce the impact of immigration enforcement on students' access to education, strengthening Minnesota's commitment to equal education, student safety, and clear school policies.**

Tell MN Lawmakers: Keep Schools Safe For Every Student

We urge state lawmakers to enact state-level protections that guarantee every child in Minnesota, regardless of immigration status, access to a free public K–12 education and ensure schools remain safe, welcoming places of learning.

Minnesota has both the authority and responsibility to act. Fear is already keeping children out of school, disrupting learning, lowering attendance, and undermining trust in our classrooms. It's impacting not only immigrant students, but U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families and entire school communities.

We call on Minnesota lawmakers to pass legislation that:

- Guarantees access to free public K–12 education regardless of immigration status
- Affirms schools as safe, welcoming spaces, free from intimidation, harassment, or fear
- Prohibits immigration enforcement activity on school grounds
- Protects student and family information from being collected, shared, or used for immigration enforcement
- Ensures educators and school staff are not placed in the role of immigration enforcement
- Provides clear guidance and accountability when violations occur

Denying children an education based on immigration status harms students, schools, and society as a whole. Minnesota should codify these protections into state law to provide clarity, stability, and safety for students, families, and educators—regardless of shifting federal interpretations.

Minnesota's future depends on schools that are places of learning, inclusion, and opportunity, not fear. We urge Minnesota lawmakers to act now.

Signed,

First Name	Last Name	Position
Abby	Quade	Education supporter
Alexander	Sanchez Rodriguez	Education supporter
Alexis	Lathrop	Education supporter
Alicia	vera	Education supporter
Alyssa	Newfield	Education supporter
Amy	McMillen	Education supporter
Anna	Benker	Education supporter
Anna	Nowaczewski	Education supporter
Annie	Kline	Other school-based staff
April	Hunter	Education supporter
Arielle	Newfield	Other school-based staff
Ashley	Collins	Education supporter
Benjamin	Marsh	Education supporter
BG	Tucker	Former preK-12 educator
Brendan	Klein	Education supporter
Carmita	McGlory	Education supporter
Carol	Quest	Former preK-12 educator
Catrina	Toeben	Education supporter
Chelsea	Johnson	Current preK-12 teacher
Christopher	O'Mara	Education supporter
Claudia	Oestenstad	Current preK-12 teacher
Colleen	Ruginis	Current preK-12 teacher
Collins	West	Former preK-12 educator
Craig	Anderson	Current school administrator
Darbi	Renaud	Education supporter
Elise	Ogden	Education supporter
Elizabeth	Gronquist	Former preK-12 educator
Elizabeth	Gedatus	Education supporter
Emilia	Nowaczewski	Other school-based staff

Emily	Fulton-Folwy	Education supporter
Emily	Casselmann	Education supporter
Estefania	Jauregui	Education supporter
Eyob	Neda	Education supporter
Hanna	Lee	Education supporter
Irwin	Flores	Education supporter
Isabella	Cook	Education supporter
Jean	Silver	Education supporter
Jessica	Hoida	Former preK-12 educator
Jody	Jackson	Education supporter
Joe	Nelson	Other school-based staff
John	Horton	Current preK-12 teacher
Jonathan	Gibbons	Current paraprofessional
Josh	Reimnitz	Former preK-12 educator
Julia	Kreger	Education supporter
Juwahn	Aran	Current paraprofessional
Kalia	Vang	Current preK-12 teacher
Kari	Skildum	Current preK-12 teacher
Katrina	Kramer	Education supporter
Kelly	Betzold	Other school-based staff
Kelsey	Thingvold	Current preK-12 teacher
Khulia	Pringle	Education supporter
Kim	Wakefield	Other school-based staff
Kira	Lipkovsky	Other school-based staff
Kyle	Freund	Current preK-12 teacher
Laquita	Normil	Current preK-12 teacher
Laura	D'Aigle	Current preK-12 teacher
Laura	Junglen	Education supporter
Leonard	Madsen	Current preK-12 teacher
Lucy	Pedro	Education supporter

Lynnsey	Renaud	Other school-based staff
Maggie	Votruba	Education supporter
Marina	Medina	Current preK-12 teacher
Matisse	Bolstrom	Education supporter
McKenzie	Meyer	Education supporter
Michelle	Nowaczewski	Education supporter
Minnie	Her	Education supporter
Miriam	Schwartz	Education supporter
Nanette	Yurecko	Former preK-12 educator
Nathaniel	Singer	Other school-based staff
Nickie	Hayes	Current preK-12 teacher
Olivia	Newfield	Former preK-12 educator
Pahoua	Vang	Education supporter
Paige	Gowen	Education supporter
Perry	Petersen	Education supporter
Qiana	Dukek	Education supporter
Riley	Hodin	Other school-based staff
Safron	Blais	Education supporter
Sandy	Canseco	Education supporter
Sara	Asendorf	Current preK-12 teacher
Sarah	Diamond	Education supporter
Sarah	Halverson	Education supporter
Shannon	Thao	Education supporter
Shannon	Nelson	Other school-based staff
Shawna	Asendorf	Other school-based staff
Shayla	Simpson	Education supporter
Simon	Kigelman	Education supporter
Sonia	Walters	Education supporter
Sophia	Ballman	Education supporter
Sophie	Kampmeyer	Education supporter

Spencer	Wakefield	Education supporter
Spencer	Sherman	Education supporter
Susan	Van Voorhis	Current preK-12 teacher
Sydney	Summers	Other school-based staff
Terrance	Kodluboy	Education supporter
Tonny	Pham	Other school-based staff
Veronica	Vital	Current preK-12 teacher
Yokeysy	Rosario Ramirez	Current preK-12 teacher
Zaid	Alwaisi	Education supporter
Aberdeen	Rodriguez	Current preK-12 teacher
Allison	Blau	Current paraprofessional
Ana	Duran	Current preK-12 teacher
Andrea	Esterly	Current preK-12 teacher
Angela	Mann	Current preK-12 teacher
Angela	Phillips	Current preK-12 teacher
Angela	Voves	Current preK-12 teacher
Chanel	Sasse	Current paraprofessional
Courtney	Heim	Current preK-12 teacher
Danielle	Staniter	Current preK-12 teacher
Danielle	Anthony	Current preK-12 teacher
Dawna	Diamon	Current preK-12 teacher
Dolly	Mariucci	Current preK-12 teacher
Erin	Day	Current preK-12 teacher
Haley	Ehleringer	Current preK-12 teacher
Jacob	Olson	Current preK-12 teacher
Jane	Ward	Current preK-12 teacher
Jill	Christopherson	Current preK-12 teacher
Jill	Spencer	Current preK-12 teacher
Joseph	Groves	Current principal
Karron	Willis	Current preK-12 teacher

Kat	Anderson-Wolff	Current preK-12 teacher
Kayla	Brown	Current preK-12 teacher
Kelly	Koehn	Current preK-12 teacher
LaMin	Aung	Current paraprofessional
Lars	Lindqvist	Current preK-12 teacher
Lorrie	Spading	Current preK-12 teacher
Lynette	Tejera	Current preK-12 teacher
Mackenzie	Lewis	Current preK-12 teacher
Marcy	Berenato	Current preK-12 teacher
Maren	Swann	Current preK-12 teacher
Margi	Youmans	Current preK-12 teacher
Marques	Robertson	Current paraprofessional
Mayada	Mahmoud	Current preK-12 teacher
Melissa	Jarvis	Current preK-12 teacher
Molly	Aung	Current preK-12 teacher
Nicole	Cooley	Current preK-12 teacher
Patrick	Heard	Current paraprofessional
Paul	Menard	Current preK-12 teacher
Quinn	Millibergity	Current preK-12 teacher
Raphael	Lucas	Other school-based staff
Rebecca	Armas	Current preK-12 teacher
Rosa	Hernandez Tirado	Current preK-12 teacher
Sadie	Oraskovich	Current preK-12 teacher
Sandra	Muellner	Current preK-12 teacher
Sharon	Morrissey	Current paraprofessional
Sonya	Boyd	Current preK-12 teacher
Susan	Providence	Current preK-12 teacher
Sydney	Birkeland	Other school-based staff
Tanya	Reyes	Current preK-12 teacher
Tatrina	Lyon	Current preK-12 teacher

Terell	Johnson	Current preK-12 teacher
Veronica	Castellanos-Vazquez	Current preK-12 teacher
William	Green	Other school-based staff
Anna	Rohde	Current preK-12 teacher
Elizabeth	O'Brien	Former preK-12 educator
Mary Fran	Schwartz	Former preK-12 educator
Mina	Johnson	Education supporter
Carlene	Benoit	Current preK-12 teacher



February 25, 2026

Dear Members of the House Education Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HF 3401, legislation that would meaningfully restrict when firearms may be brought onto school property. Ensuring safe and supportive learning environments is a top priority for our members, and clear, enforceable boundaries regarding firearms on school grounds are essential components of that work.

Our school leaders are responsible for safeguarding hundreds of thousands of students and staff each day. They develop and implement comprehensive safety plans, invest in prevention and intervention strategies, and work closely with law enforcement and community partners. However, the presence of firearms on or near school property, particularly when not securely stored, undermines these efforts and increases risk.

The data is sobering. Research from Be SMART shows that 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates. Further, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the firearm from their own home, a relative's home, or a friend. These findings underscore a critical reality: youth access to unsecured firearms is a significant factor in school-based gun violence.

The research also highlights the growing problem of firearms stolen from vehicles. At least one unsecured gun is stolen from a car every nine minutes in the United States, and that rate tripled between 2013 and 2023. In 2022, 51 percent of gun thefts involved firearms stolen from vehicles, and thefts from cars are now the largest source of stolen guns. When firearms are brought onto school property and left unsecured in vehicles, the risk is compounded by creating opportunities for theft and increasing the likelihood that those weapons could later be used in acts of violence.

Legislation that clearly restricts when and how firearms may be present on school property, and that reinforces secure storage requirements, is a reasonable and targeted step to reduce preventable risk. Such policies support school leaders in maintaining safe campuses, provide clarity for families and staff, and align with the overarching goal we all share: keeping students, staff and the public safe.

The statute currently provides that a school principal can authorize the possession of a firearm in a school. We believe the time has come to remove this provision from statute.

The provisions providing the placement of the unloaded firearm, in a locked safe, stored in a locked trunk are positive regulations that we believe should be incorporated into Minnesota law.

We appreciate the committee's attention to school safety and stand ready to work with you to strengthen protections for Minnesota students and educators.

Sincerely,

Association of Metropolitan School Districts
MN Association of School Administrators
MN Elementary School Principals' Association
MN Association of Secondary School Principals

Open Letter Supporting Minnesota's Education Protection Bill to Protect All Students, Regardless of Immigration Status

HF3409 / SF3803

To Minnesota State Policymakers, Education Leaders, and Community Members:

As federal civil rights protections face renewed legal and political threats, Minnesota has both the authority and responsibility to act. We urge lawmakers to enact state-level protections that explicitly guarantee every child—regardless of immigration status—access to a free public K–12 education and ensure schools remain safe, welcoming places of learning.

Specifically, we call on Minnesota lawmakers to enact legislation that:

- **Guarantees access to free public K–12 education regardless of immigration status;**
- **Protects students and families from threats**, including threats related to immigration enforcement or law enforcement activity on school grounds;
- **Prohibits intimidation, coercion, or harassment** of students or families based on actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status, affirming that schools are spaces of learning not surveillance or fear;
- **Protects student and family information from collection, use, or disclosure** for immigration enforcement purposes, including prohibiting schools from requesting, collecting, or sharing information about actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status unless strictly required by law;
- **Affirms that schools are safe, welcoming spaces**, where educators can focus on teaching and students can attend without fear that their presence will place themselves or their loved ones at risk;
- **Provides clear guidance and accountability** so school staff are not placed in the role of immigration enforcement and families have meaningful remedies when violations occur.

Districts across Minnesota are experiencing serious disruptions to learning as a result of increased ICE activity. Schools have reported sharp spikes in absenteeism, rapid shifts to online learning, and heightened fear among students and families. In some districts, as many as **20 to 40 percent of students have been absent in recent weeks**, with particularly severe impacts on multilingual learners and immigrant communities. **These disruptions are not limited to**

immigrant students; U.S. citizen children are also missing school, losing access to in-person learning, and experiencing instability as entire classrooms and school communities are affected. Together, these impacts are undermining student learning, destabilizing school operations, and threatening district funding.

Minnesota's public education system serves roughly **870,000 K–12 students**, including large and growing populations of English learners and children from immigrant families. Nearly one in five Minnesota children has at least one foreign-born parent, and many districts, including Minneapolis and Saint Paul, report that **over 1 of 5 students are English learners**. These students contribute to the vitality and future of Minnesota's communities. Keeping them in school is both a moral obligation and an economic necessity.

Excluding children from education carries severe economic consequences. Declining enrollment jeopardizes school funding, staffing, and programs. Nationally, **excluding immigrant students would shrink the U.S. economy by more than \$1 trillion in lifetime earnings, reduce the workforce by over 750,000 workers, and increase health costs by \$24.2 billion.** In Minnesota, immigrants make up approximately **11 percent of the workforce**, a share that continues to grow, underscoring how essential immigrant families are to the state's economic vitality.

With population growth slowing among younger age groups, Minnesota's future depends on educating all students. Fear-driven absenteeism erodes trust in schools and deepens inequities, particularly for English learners and students from immigrant-origin families. **Education is a proven public health investment, linked to better health outcomes, lower incarceration rates, and higher lifetime earnings.**

Minnesota prides itself on fairness, opportunity, and investing in the common good. Codifying protections for all students would reaffirm these values and ensure schools remain places of learning, inclusion, and community, not fear.

Ensuring every child has access to education is essential to Minnesota's future.

Signed,

Push Forward Minnesota Coalition & Partners:





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Minnesota Disability Law Center





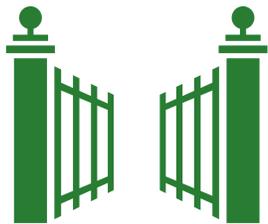
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Jessica Heiser
Supervising Attorney
Disability Law Center
Heather Anderson
Executive Director
**Advancing Equity
Coalition**
Lars Esdal
Executive Director
Education Evolving
Benita Blackwell
Executive Director
IMperfect Academy
Aaron Sepulveda
Legislative and Policy
Director

**Minnesota Council of
Latino Affairs**
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Owner
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Kingdom Athletics
Leiataua Dr. Robert Jon
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Founder and President
TE2 Consulting
Senior Fellow/Director of
Policy
**Minnesota Equity
Education Partnership**
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CEO/Founder

Rhymes Media Group
Ellie Wilson
Executive Director
**Autism Society of
Minnesota**
Satara Strong-Allen
Executive Director
**Love First Community
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Holly Amaya
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Charter Source
Marika Pfefferkorn
Executive Director
**Twin Cities Innovation
Alliance**
Julia Freeman

Director of Community
Engagement

Voices For Racial Justice

Alissa Washington
Executive Director

**Wrongfully Incarcerated
& Over-sentenced**

Families Council-MN

Richard Coleman
Executive Director

Hope United CDC

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Community Member
Ali Alowonle
Community Member

Aditi Rajendran
Assistant Professor of
Education Policy and
Leadership

University of Minnesota

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Parent &

Community Member
Katie Sandsmark

EL Educator

Sara Mosley-Waltz
Community Member

Thomas Rochon
Community Member

Emma Welter

Math Teacher

Jessica Hoida
Licensed Psychologist

Sara Metz
Community Member

Chauntyll Allen

School Board Director

Saint Paul Public Schools

Navin Solórzano O'Brien
Lead Organizer

**Educators 4 Excellence
Minnesota**

Erin Sandsmark
Executive Director

Solutions Not

Suspensions

Emily Lauer
Community Member

Khulia Pringle
Executive Director

Minnesota Parents

United

S.T.A.N.D. UP

Ryan Haenze
Legal Advocate

Disability Law Center

Jennifer Mortenson
Educator

**Creator of Phenomenal
Human Beings**

Chase Hand-Peoples
Healthcare Worker

Elizabeth McLister
Community Member

Josh Crosson
Executive Director

EdAllies

Blanca Caldas Chumbes
Professor

University of Minnesota

Abigail Rombalski
Professor

University of Minnesota

Bridget Gavin
Community Member

Vichet Chhuon
Community Member

Kim Johnson
Community Member

Jennifer Hill

Community Member
Christina R Lynch

Community Member
Angela Carpio

Community Member
Alberto Vera

Community Member
Xue Xiong

Community Member
Sandra Reishus

Community Member
Scott Berndt

Community Member
Lynn Mullin

Community Member
Kyle Bille

Community Member
Malaika Eban

Executive Director

Legal Rights Center

Ursula Becker

Teacher

Karissa Stotts

Educator

Pang Yang
Executive Director

MN Zej Zog

BG Tucker
Executive Director

College Possible

Minnesota

Kyle Parsons
Senior Programs

Officer/Advocacy

Greater Minnesota

Schools

Dr. Sabrina Edwards
Senior Student Services

Officer

Hiawatha Academies

Kate Foster
Educator
Ivette Izea-Martinez
Senior Programs Officer
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**Greater Twin Cities
United Way**
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Community Member
Rachel Boeke
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LeadMN
Laichia Vang
Community Member
Nafeesah Muhammad
Educator
Michelle Baker
Executive Director
Austin Aspires
Thomas Anderson
Executive Director
Students United
Jeimmy Yusty Rojas
Director of Cradle to
Carrier Initiatives
RiseUp Partnership
Anne Soto
Executive Director
Midwest
World Savvy
Kelly Sander
Community Member
Em Hodge
State Chair
Students United
Dr. Erik Lien
Community Member
Joey Cienian
Executive Director

**Minnesota Association of
Charter Schools**
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Organizer
Community Member
David John Peterson
Community Member
Elba Garza
Garza Legacy Group
Alma Flores
Executive Director
**Latino Economic
Development Center MN**
Allison Williams
Community Member
Irma Marquez Trapero
CEO
LatinoLEAD
Alexander Delgado
Director of Policy
Esperanza United
Miriam L.D. Goodson
Executive Director
**Alliance of Chicanos,
Hispanics, and Latin
Americans**
Annastacia
Belladonna-Carrera
State Director
Common Cause MN
Mike Kunert
Community Member
Josh Downham
Director of Government
**Minneapolis Public
Schools**
John J. Fanning
Community Member
Anna Asendorf
Community Member

Francisco Segovia
Executive Director
**Comunidades
Organizando el Poder y
la Acción Latina-
COPAL**
Tom Steinmetz
Executive Director
**Healthy Community
Initiative**
Ashley Karlsson
Project Director
Project Momentum
Katya Zepeda
Director of Advocacy
**Saint Paul & Minnesota
Foundation**
Isabella Cook
Community Member
Ted Hoffman
Board Chair
**Duluth Community
School Collaborative**
Stephannie L. Lewis
Associate Vice President
**Greater Twin Cities
United Way**
Rachel Widome
Professor of Epidemiology
and Community Health
Zahra Farah
ELL Educator