



Transform the lives of Minnesota kids by supporting the Outdoor School For All grant program.

ABOUT THE BILL

Outdoor School For All Minnesota will establish a state wide grant program to support immersive, multiday, accredited overnight outdoor education program experiences for students in grades 4 to 8 to ensure that all Minnesota students have a chance to benefit from outdoor education.

WHY NOW?

Our children are losing their connection to the outdoors. COVID-19 had deep impacts on children. 66% of Minnesota principals say they need mental health support for students, and spending time outdoors reduces stress by 30%. Other benefits include:

Minnesota Legacy

We must ensure preservation of Minnesota's rich outdoor heritage like hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation for future generations.

Improved Social & Academic Learning

Spending time in nature enhances educational outcomes and leads to better social skills, increased self-esteem, and enhanced health.

Equity

Children of color and low income families are less likely to have access to the outdoors and its benefits.

What is an Outdoor School?

An Outdoor School program is a multi-day, overnight experience where students participate in outdoor-based learning activities in outdoor recreation, natural science, and cultural history.

Outdoor School program providers work with partnering school groups to meet curriculum goals and state academic standards.

MN OUTDOOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS



“Our students benefit from an outdoor education experience because they primarily come from low income families who reside in an urban setting. Many of our families do not have access to such opportunities or trips outside of [Outdoor School].”

- 5th grade teacher, Minneapolis

WHY ARE FUNDS NEEDED?

Currently only 30% of Minnesota students are able to access Outdoor School. Teacher surveys indicate that lack of funding is the #1 barrier to access Outdoor School programming. Outdoor School for All Minnesota will provide crucial funding to help close the access disparity gap.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE ELIGIBLE?

All Minnesota public, private, and tribal schools serving grades 4-8 are eligible.

HOW IS FUNDING USED?

The legislation provides state funding to ensure every student in the state has the opportunity to experience an accredited overnight Outdoor School Program at some point between grades 4-8, at no cost to students' families.



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