

Dear Chairperson Richardson and Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of HF 3402 regarding withholding recess as a form of punishment in schools.

As a parent of two young children, I see every day that recess is vital time for kids to move, laugh, and play joyfully with classmates. Recess is a school's primary opportunity for children's self-determined physical, social, and emotional development - a foundation for mental well-being, school engagement, and learning. The pandemic has caused unprecedented school shutdowns, uncertain opportunities for activity, and disruptions to childhood peer relationships. This bill is an important approach to help decouple the benefits of recess from counterproductive practices of punishment and rewards at school.

Minnesota would be on the right track ensuring that every child in public school gets to participate in recess every day.

Regards,
Aaron Crowell
Duluth, MN
District 7A