



March 22, 2023

Dear Members of the House Education Finance Committee:

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. HF 1502 would **bridge the ethnic and cultural divide in Minnesota classrooms by incorporating ethnic studies instruction** for all students.

All students deserve to see themselves – their own cultures, communities, and histories – within their education. Studies show 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.

Please support HF 1502 to ensure that all Minnesota students are able to benefit from Ethnic Studies in their classrooms.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Ethnic Studies Coalition

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



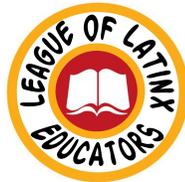
Ed Allies



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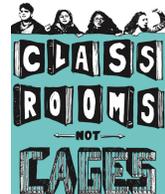
League of Latinx Educators



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

