



## Ethnic Studies Bill Summary (HF 704, Lee / SF XXX)

### What is proposed in the Ethnic Studies bill (HF 704)?

1. Requires ethnic studies instruction in all K-12 schools, starting with high school students who would be required to take an ethnic studies course to graduate.
2. Creates an Ethnic Studies Advisory Task Force composed of a diverse array of educators, students, and community experts to advise MDE on ethnic studies content and standards and to develop a model ethnic studies curriculum.
3. Allocates funding to MDE to convene the Task Force and to aid school districts in the implementation of the ethnic studies requirements.
4. Includes ethnic studies as a “strand” within the social studies standards.
5. Proposes a timeline for implementation of standards by 2023/24 for high school and 2024/25 for elementary and middle school students.

### What is Ethnic Studies?

*Bill Definition:* "Ethnic studies" means the critical and interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity with a focus on the experiences and perspectives of people of color within and beyond the United States. Ethnic studies analyzes the ways in which race and racism have been and continue to be powerful social, cultural, and political forces, and their connections to other axes of stratification, including gender, class, sexuality, and legal status.

### Why is the Ethnic Studies bill important?

- Minnesota’s K-12 student population is rapidly becoming more diverse. In 2005 there were 22% students of color and today it's 35%. However, [the percentage of teachers of color has stagnated at 4%](#). The classroom learning experience – including the teacher workforce, materials, and content – remains predominantly white.
- Minnesota still has some of the worst achievement gaps in the country. We must do things differently to expect different results. Research has shown that ethnic studies increase the engagement and achievement of BIPOC students. For example, [in a study of three San Francisco high schools](#) over five years, 9th-grade students who were at risk of dropping out had a 21 percent increase in attendance if they took an ethnic studies course. They also increased their grade point average, or GPA, by 1.4 points.
- Students of all racial and ethnic identities will benefit from a more holistic curriculum that better reflects the diversity of their classrooms and society, and directly addresses intersecting issues (climate, racism, immigration, etc). Ethnic studies support student learning by ensuring students’ experiences and backgrounds are reflected in the curriculum. Many other [states](#) already incorporate ethnic studies content into their standards and curriculum.
- It will encourage more BIPOC students and adults to become teachers so that the racial and ethnic diversity of teachers more closely reflects an increasingly diverse student population.

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**Organizational Supporters of the MN Ethnic Studies bill include:**

Asian American  
Organizing Project



Coalition of Asian  
American Leaders  
(CAAL)



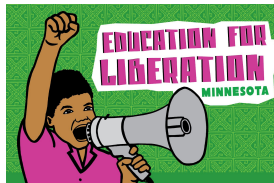
Climate Generation



Coalition to Increase  
Teachers of Color and  
American Indian  
Teachers in MN



Education for Liberation  
Minnesota



Education Evolving



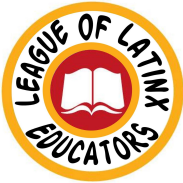
Education Minnesota



Ed Allies



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

