

ENSURING **IMMERSIVE OUTDOOR**
EDUCATION IS ACCESSIBLE



Bringing the power of the outdoors to all Minnesota students.



About the Bill

Outdoor School for All Minnesota will establish a state-wide grant program to support immersive, multi-day, accredited overnight outdoor education experiences administered by the Department of Natural Resources for fourth to eighth grade students. This would include all programming fees, transportation and teacher stipends, making these trips possible at no cost to students and schools.

2024 Legislative Session Outlook

- HF 3321, chief authored by DFL Representative Kristi Pursell (Northfield), was introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session. The bill has 34 co-authors.
- SF 3347, Chief Authored by DFL Senator Grant Hauschild (Hermantown), and SF 3355, chief authored by GOP Senator Jeremy Miller (Winona), were introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session. The eight co-authors include three DFL and five GOP senators.
- An additional House bill will be introduced in February 2024 by GOP Representative Dean Urdahl (Grove City) and will have 34 co-authors.
- The Outdoor School for All Minnesota Bills will be the most bi-partisan and widely supported legislative proposals in recent years.



Teacher surveys indicate that lack of **funding is a top concern** for access to Outdoor School programming.



Only 29% of Minnesota students are able to access Outdoor School.



According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the typical Minnesota student spends an **average of seven hours of screen time but less than 10 minutes of outdoor activity** each day.



There is the opportunity for **2,759 more schools** throughout Minnesota to attend Outdoor School.



66% of Minnesota principals say they need mental health support for students, and spending time outdoors **reduces stress by 30%**.

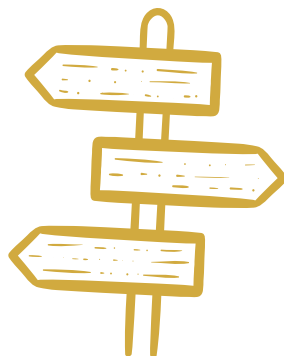


Sharing Minnesota's Legacy of Outdoor Heritage

Through Outdoor School for All Minnesota, students experience:

- Multi-day immersive outdoor school programming
- Improved academic outcomes in physical education, social studies, and physical and natural science
- Improved social outcomes, like self-esteem, critical thinking, and relationship building

Outdoor School For All Minnesota will not be a mandate. Interested schools opt-in to participate in the programming and have the flexibility to choose from any accredited Outdoor School provider.



“Today more than ever, all Minnesota children need these important Outdoor School learning experiences. This bill ensures our rich, shared Minnesota outdoor heritage will continue for future generations.”

– House co-author Rep. Nathan Nelson, Hinckley

“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].”

– Fifth grade teacher, Minneapolis



Home to Five Outdoor School Providers

outdoorschoolforallmn.org



Outdoor School For All Minnesota grants must be used for students to attend programming accredited by a state-recognized accrediting agency. Minnesota's five accredited outdoor school providers have met the criteria for educational quality established by the Cognia Global Commission.