

ENSURING **IMMERSIVE OUTDOOR**  
**EDUCATION** IS ACCESSIBLE



# Bringing the power of the outdoors to all Minnesota students.



## About the Bill

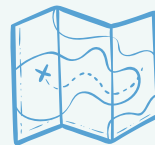
Outdoor School for All Minnesota will establish a state-wide grant program to support immersive, multi-day, school accredited overnight outdoor education experiences administered by the Department of Natural Resources for fourth to twelfth grade students. This would include programming fees, transportation and teacher stipends, with the goal to enable the experience for every child in Minnesota.

## 2025 Legislative Session Outlook

- SF 1050, chief authored by DFL Senator Grant Hauschild (Hermantown), and co-authored by GOP Senators Jeremy Miller (Winona) and Jason Rarick (Pine City), add DFL Senator Fong Hawj (St. Paul) was introduced during the 2025 Legislative Session.
- HF (# not yet assigned), chief authored by GOP Representative Roger Skraba (Ely), and co-authored by an additional 7 GOP and 7 DFL Representatives, was introduced during the 2025 legislative session. Co-author Representatives include: Heintzeman, Fischer, Pursell, Burkel, N. Nelson, Gillman, Jordan, Hussein, Schultz, Clardy, Falconer, Zeleznikar, Lee, and Jacob.
- The Outdoor School for All Minnesota Bills are 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

### MN DNR OSFA Recommendation

- Youth have increasingly limited opportunities to have significant residential outdoor experiences.

**Recommend the creation of a state program, Outdoor School for All Minnesota Youth, which will demonstrate and implement a statewide commitment of inclusive outdoor education through which communities will see every child provided a life-changing experience in the outdoors.**

**Full Report  
OSFA pages 13-17**



# Home to Five Outdoor School Providers



[outdoorschoolforallmn.org](http://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.