

## S.F. No. 476 – Climate Justice Instruction

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### Section 1. [120B.25] Climate Justice Instruction.

**Subdivision 1. Model program.** (a) Defines “climate justice” as a framework that puts people first and views the effects of climate change as interconnected with forms of oppression connecting climate change to social and economic justice issues.

(b) Directs the commissioner of education to provide a climate justice model program for elementary and secondary school students, in consultation with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, environmental organizations, teachers, and other qualified experts. Requires the commissioner to provide school districts and charter schools with access to the model program by July 1 of each odd-numbered year.

(c) Directs the commissioner to include in the model program climate justice content that is: scientifically accurate; age, disability, and developmentally accessible; inclusive of underrepresented students; encourages sharing and comprehension of climate justice stories; and is grounded in science and intersectionality on:

- (1) human activities causing climate change and the risk to all life forms;
- (2) climate change’s disproportionate effects on communities facing systemic oppression;
- (3) the relationship between systemic change and accessible environmental stewardship; and
- (4) the growing number of economic and environmental solutions which should be led by communities most impacted by the climate crisis.

**Subd. 2. School programs.** (a) Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, requires a school district or charter school to implement a climate justice education program, including students with disabilities and students enrolled in a state-approved alternative program.

(b) Directs a school district or charter school to report to the commissioner of education regarding its implementation of a climate justice education program, including whether it implemented a model program.

**Subd. 3. Parental review.** Requires a school district or charter school to provide instruction and curriculum under this section consistent with the parental curriculum review requirements in **section 120B.20.**

**Effective Date:** Makes the section effective immediately.

**Section 2. Climate Justice Education Report.** (a) Directs the commissioner of education to submit a report to the legislature on the climate justice education program. The report must include:

- (1) a description of how the model climate justice education program or programs were identified;
  - (2) assistance provided to school districts and charter schools implementing a climate justice education program; and
  - (3) the number of school districts and charter schools that adopted the model program.
- (b) Directs the commissioner to submit the report no later than January 31, 2026.

**Effective Date:** Makes the section effective July 1, 2023.