

H.560/S.391: An Act Implementing Elementary and Secondary Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Education

Sponsored by Representative Mindy Domb and Senator Jason Lewis

The climate crisis is unleashing disastrous effects across the country and around the world. Massachusetts K-12 curriculum does not contain standardized instruction on climate change, and 76% of teachers have not received any professional training or education on how to teach climate change.¹ 72% of middle and high school students nationwide believe that their generation will find solutions to address climate change.² Our response to the global crisis of climate change depends on today's youth having the understanding and skills to address it.

What does this bill do

This bill aims to significantly boost climate literacy for the majority of students in Massachusetts by providing support for educators to successfully implement climate change education. It establishes a justice-oriented, interdisciplinary definition of climate literacy while ensuring the continued voice of youth and teachers in guiding implementation of the legislation.

To achieve these goals, this bill:

- Establishes a statewide Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Advisory Council at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop equitable, evidence-based climate education guidelines
- Creates an Interdisciplinary Climate Literacy Trust Fund to support curriculum development, professional development training, and technical support for districts
- Encourages district-level development and implementation of climate literacy plans



¹ Madeline Will, M. & Arianna Prothero, A. (January 31, 2023) Students Want Climate Change Education. Most Teachers Don't Get Enough Training. Education Week. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/students-want-climate-change-education-most-teachers-dont-get-enough-training/2023/01>

² Museum of Science (April 22, 2024) Boston Museum of Science Survey Finds "Generation Alpha" Taking Up the Challenge to Adapt and Act on Climate. <https://www.mos.org/press/press-release/climate-change-survey>