

## 2018 Mid-Session Education Legislative Update

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### **The Increase Teachers of Color Act of 2018 (H.F. 3594/S.F. 3263)**

The Increase Teachers of Color Act of 2018 (ITCA of 2018) calls for the state to invest \$1.5 million to support more teachers of color and American Indian teachers (TOCAIT) entering and staying in the profession. It also expands options for use of existing revenue sources to districts to help retain diverse teachers ([See ITCA of 2018 Summary and Endorsements](#)).

The ITCA of 2018 is the result of a close collaboration among the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota (TOCAIMN), MN Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA), MN Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH), and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM). While progress was made in addressing the issue in the 2017 Legislative Session ([See summary of 2017 efforts](#)), to significantly move the needle, MCLA and partners are continuing to advise the State's leadership to annually increase support for teachers of color and American Indian teachers.

MCLA has identified this issue as our chief priority in education over the last two years and into the coming years to:

- Address Minnesota's severe shortage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers – currently only 4.2% of the current teacher workforce.
- Close our nation-leading achievement gaps. Research is clear that all students benefit from a racially diverse teaching workforce, but students of color especially see improved academic achievement when taught by educators from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. Students of color and American Indian students make up 32.5% of Minnesota's student body.

The partners in this collaborative effort, led by MCLA and the Coalition, worked together to co-draft the ITCA of 2018 bill to be introduced, resulting from extensive stakeholder engagement and collaboration with chief authors, and to secure authors and hearings. On March 12, the Increase Teachers of Color Act of 2018 was introduced by chief authors Representative Jon Koznick and Senator Paul Anderson.

### **Status of the ITCA of 2018:**

H.F 3594 had its first hearing in House E12 Finance Committee on March 22 where it was laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill or for further action at a later date. In the Senate, the bill companion (S.F. 3263) was referred to the E12 Policy Committee, where a hearing was not secured ahead of the second policy deadline, March 29. The fate of the bill awaits Conference Committee meetings after a legislative break April 2-April 9. The bill, like 2017 efforts, has bipartisan support and has the endorsement of over 30 premier organizations and institutions from around the state.

**Pictures from House E12 Finance Committee Hearing on March 22, 2018:**



Top Left: Kevin Coons (senior at Lakeville South HS), next to Representative Koznick (chief author) giving his testimony in support of the ITCA of 2018; Top Right: Roberta Hernandez Rasmussen (teacher in Roseville) sharing her experience as a teacher of color and expressing support for the bill; Bottom Left: Violeta Hernandez Espinosa (MN Council on Latino Affairs) speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Ethnic Councils and the American Indian Council; Bottom Right: Kimberly Colbert (teacher and Coalition leader) testifying on behalf of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in MN.

**Watch the ITCA of 2018 and Grow Your Own Programs bills hearing in the House on March 22:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19AwD2wu3z0&feature=youtu.be&t=53m49s>

**35:09** - HF3206 (Rep. Fenton) Grow Your Own pathways to teacher licensure program funding increased. St. Paul teachers Elizabeth Thao and Mario Luna testify as graduates of the St. Paul Urban Teacher Residency GYO program.

**53:45** - HF3594 (Rep. Koznick) Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthened. Hear and see various testifiers including Violeta Hernandez Espinosa (Education Policy Liaison at MCLA) speaking on behalf of the Ethnic Councils and Indian Affairs Council, Kevin Coons (senior at Lakeville South HS), Roberta Hernandez Rasmussen (teacher in Roseville), and Kimberly Colbert (teacher and Coalition leader).

## Grow Your Own Teacher Training Programs (H.F. 3206/S.F. 3340)

H.F. 3206 (Rep. Fenton), S.F. 3340 (Sen. Pappas), calls for an additional \$3.5 million for the existing Grow Your Own teacher preparation program. It would direct \$3.5 million towards the nonconventional GYO programs and \$1.5 million to the rest of the GYO programs. GYO programs are now diverse, taking on a variety of activities and to provide financial support to more persons in school districts who seek teacher licensure through a teacher preparation program or a school-based, board-approved program. The expanded GYO, resulting from 2017 efforts, allows for more activities in high schools to encourage more students to consider the profession upon graduation. These programs continue to be key in efforts to diversify the teacher workforce.

Both H.F. 3206/S.F. 3340 and the ITCA of 2018 increase appropriations to address support needed for Grow Your Own programs, expanding pathways to teaching. MCLA collaborated in drafting of both bills. However, the Councils and Coalition, based on stakeholder feedback from organizations representing rural school districts, support the lower qualifying percentage for student district diversity of 25%, as in the ITCA (see line 4.13 of H.F. 3594), for all programs beyond the nonconventional residency programs.

### Current Status:

H.F. 3206 had its first hearing in the House E12 Finance Committee on March 22 where it was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill or for further action at a later date. S.F. 3340 had its first hearing in the Senate E12 Policy Committee on March 27 where it was recommended to pass, as amended, and referred to the E-12 Finance Committee.

### Watch the Grow Your Own Teacher Training bill hearing in the Senate on March 22, 2018

[http://mnsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=1&clip\\_id=2555](http://mnsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=2555)

**1:23:03** – S.F. 3340 (Sen. Pappas) Hear and see various testifiers including Denaya Franke (Teacher, St. Paul Public Schools), Stacy Theien-Collins (Principal, Murray Middle School), Mario Luna (Graduate of St. Paul Public Schools), Talisha Jackson (St. Paul teacher residency program graduate) and **1:34:44** - Violeta Hernandez Espinosa (Education Policy Liaison at MCLA).



Violeta Hernandez Espinosa testifying on behalf of Minnesota's Ethnic Councils and Indian Affairs Council

**Other education bills we are following closely this session include:**

- **H.F. 2724/S.F. 3831** which would prohibit school lunch providers from shaming students and require meal policies to be posted to school websites, and create a supplementary reserve fund.
- **H.F. 3178/S.F. 2816** which proposes an academic achievement rating system that would be required to track student achievement, academic growth, and achievement gap closure rates in schools and districts.
- **H.F. 3180/S.F. 2810** which calls for an increase of the EL concentration allowance to \$500 per student, and doubles the maximum concentration factor to 23 percent of total students, directing additional revenue to schools serving more than 11.5 percent EL students.
- **H.F. 794/S.F. 3058** which would establish a program under the Office of Higher Education to provide a grant to a Minnesota-based nonprofit qualified debt counseling organization to provide individual student loan debt repayment counseling to borrowers who are Minnesota residents concerning loans obtained to attend a Minnesota postsecondary institution.
- **H.F. 3852/S.F. 3514** which would reduce a student's responsibility amount in the calculations for MN State Grant financial stipend starting in Fiscal Year 2019.