

Submitter: Amelia Prins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB854

My name is Amelia Prins and I am a junior at South Salem High School. I am writing in support of SB 854, which would require each school district to develop a written plan establishing climate change instructional programs for k-12 grades by June 1, 2026.

Climate education is important to me because I think that every child should have the opportunity to learn about climate change from a young age. When I was younger, I attended Plant for the Planet workshops, and I got to learn all about climate change and its effect. That was a turning point for me, which has motivated me to make climate-based decisions ever since. However, it makes me sad to think that many children never have this opportunity to grow up knowing about the importance and gravity of climate change. If I had never attended that first workshop, I would never have learned how important climate change was and decided to devote time into it. Shouldn't climate change be taught in schools? Why would we spend time teaching students about their ancestor's history, but not about their own futures? Is it really fair to wait to tell them about climate change until it's too late?

This legislation will ensure that every student in public schools will be educated about climate change. Not just students whose parents care about climate change or sign them up for a workshop, but everyone. Climate change is something that is going to affect every member of my generation, so every member should not only know about it, but be educated with detailed and accurate information.

I urge you to please listen to the voices of youth and prioritize access to equitable climate justice education in our public schools this session and beyond. Thank you for your time and allowing me the opportunity to voice my opinion.