

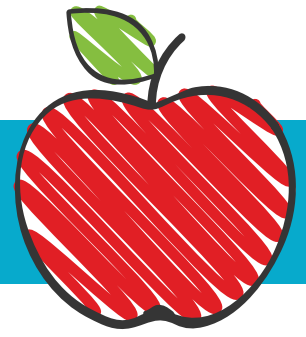
IMPLEMENTING THE ELP: Statewide Agencies and Organizations



*Environmental Educators of North Carolina.
Annual Conference Group Photo, 2023*

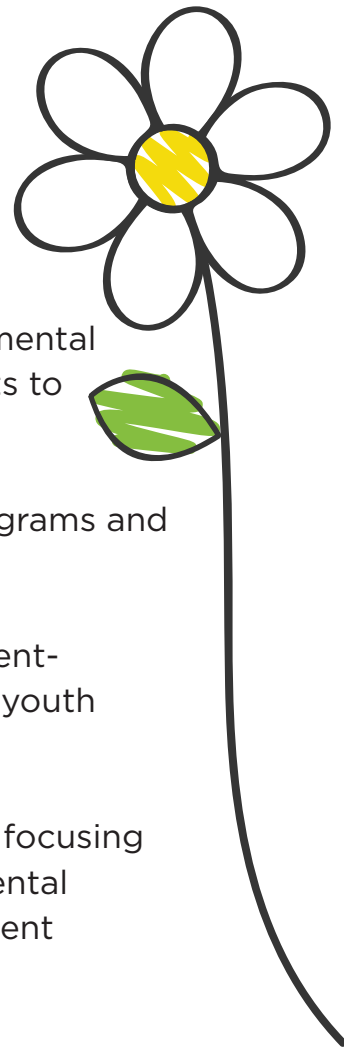


Suggested Strategies



- 1 Encourage state leadership to make the Environmental Literacy Plan a priority based on the research-based benefits of environmental education and outdoor learning on academic performance and student well-being.
- 2 Provide guidance and resources to integrate environmental education into the K-12 curriculum and to align environmental education activities and programs with science and other school standards.
- 3 Facilitate collaboration between formal and nonformal educators to create opportunities for students and professional development for educators. Support ongoing efforts to bring teachers and nonformal educators together through professional networking, including regional and statewide opportunities and events.
- 4 Work with existing environmental education agencies and organizations, including the NC Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs and the Environmental Educators of North Carolina, to connect teachers with existing opportunities and resources that support the Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP).
- 5 Provide teachers with high-quality, culturally responsive environmental education lessons, activities, and resources that are aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- 6 Advocate for incorporating environmental literacy instruction across multiple disciplines whenever educational standards are revised.
- 7 Seek the funding needed to increase student experiences, teacher training, on-site improvements, and other strategies to implement this plan.
- 8 Increase school boards' awareness of the ELP and of the resources available to support its implementation on the local and state levels. Schedule presentations and build relationships.

- 9 Provide resources, technical support, and promote opportunities for funding to help schools develop outdoor learning areas on the school grounds and to fund sustainability efforts in the school building.
- 10 Recognize teachers and school administrators for conservation and sustainability efforts through awards and certification programs, such as EnviroSmart Schools Program administered through Catawba College's Center for the Environment, the US Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program, and Schoolyard Habitat certification program through the National Wildlife Federation.
- 11 Encourage the use of real data and maps for student activities and teacher professional development to allow inquiry of place-based data.
- 12 Support regional networks of environmental professionals using Wake County Green Schools Partnership's model, including the school district, teachers, nonformal educators, and the local community.
- 13 Provide guest speakers and topic experts to schools for environmental programs, STEM events, career panels, etc. to encourage students to pursue environmental careers.
- 14 Provide mentors and support for after-school environmental programs and school environmental clubs.
- 15 Build relationships with potentially aligned groups, including parent-teacher associations or organizations, faith-based coalitions and youth groups, community groups, and civic leagues.
- 16 Provide professional development for a wide range of audiences focusing on the NC Standard Course of Study, best practices in environmental education, local environmental justice issues, environmental content knowledge, etc.
- 17 Evaluate workshops and other professional development in environmental education using the NAAEE Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators to ensure they are quality programs using best practices in the field.



- 18 Connect students, parents, and teachers to resources and financial aid opportunities for outdoor experiences outside the traditional school day, including track-out and summer camps, after-school programs, volunteer opportunities, and family events.
- 19 Provide teachers with resources for various environmental topics in their community, including guest speakers, demonstrations, and materials.
- 20 Provide resources, materials, training, and administrative support for teachers to use existing woods, wetlands, creeks, landscaped areas, greenspaces, and other natural areas on or near their schools for teaching across disciplines. Seek district support and professional development for how to use these resources.
- 21 Promote current professional development opportunities and help develop new training programs for educators that will meet the state's K-12 science standards and goals for environmental literacy, while also building educators' knowledge, skills, and confidence in teaching environmental education.
- 22 Support workshops and trainings that use environmental education curriculum linked to the NC K-12 Standard Course of Study, providing ready-to-use lessons and activities that will help students achieve the learning outcomes identified in our state standards across multiple subjects and grade levels.
- 23 Provide and support professional development opportunities that increase environmental literacy, especially those that provide renewal credits Professional Educator's License and NC Environmental Education Certification.

