Superintendents’ Environmental Education Collaborative

Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Prince George’s County Public Schools, MD

Sarah Bodor, North American Association for Environmental Education

Anne Campbell, San Mateo County Public Schools, CA

Don Baugh, Upstream Alliance
We are gathered here today to...

...discuss opportunities for school systems and partners to advance environmental education
Today’s session...

**Introduction**
- Welcome and Need for Collaborative Models

**Models**
- MD ELPs and Graduation Requirements
- CA Blueprint
- EE Spectrum/Ladder of Engagement

**Funding**
- Funding through ESSA

**Collaboration**
- Partnerships and Resources PLT
- Partnerships and Resources NAAEE

**Wrap Up**
- Wrap Up: Webinar and Website
- Q & A
We aim to expand environmental education programs for all students to provide robust, real-world learning experiences that bolster STEM learning, civic engagement, and prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century workforce.
Why form collaborative?

There is a **NEED** because:

- Federal funding is timely
- The collaborative connects superintendents to the EE community
- EE enhances environmental literacy
- Environmental issues will dominate future challenges and opportunities
- EE bolsters STEM learning & prepares students for 21st century workforce
What are other school systems doing?

Prince George’s County Public Schools, MD
MD Environmental Literacy Standards & Graduation Requirement

- PGCPS Environmental Literacy Plan: standards infused into curriculum
- MD Environmental Literacy Standards
- Graduation Requirement: In 2011, MD passed the first graduation requirement
PGCPS Process

- School System Goal—Graduating Environmentally Literate Students
- Partnerships Created with Non-Profits, Community Organizations, Agencies
- Advisory Panel: Monthly Breakfast Meetings
Environmental Literacy Across the Curriculum

Environmental Literacy Themes

- **Kindergarten:** Growing up Green
- **1st Grade:** Forest Friends
- **2nd Grade:** Future Planning
- **3rd Grade:** Sunfish & Students
- **4th Grade:** Future Planning
- **5th Grade:** Wild in the Woods
- **7th Grade:** Wild Rice Project
- **High School:** Score Four
Active Learners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Authentic Learning in the Outdoors
California Moves Forward

Plan:
Environmental Literacy Task Force - “Blueprint for Environmental Literacy”

Collaboration:
Environmental Literacy Steering Committee

Resources:
California Education and the Environment Curriculum
California’s Focus: Partnerships

• San Mateo Environmental Literacy Collaborative (SMELC)

• ChangeScale School Partnership Initiative
  (http://www.changescale.org/school-partnership-initiative/)

• Brawley High School: Kids Making Sense
San Mateo Environmental Literacy Collaborative

A K-8 professional learning collaborative focused on teaching the Next Generation Science Standards using Project-Based Learning and the environment.
San Mateo Environmental Literacy Collaborative

Partners

• San Mateo County Office of Education
• School Districts
• 10 Strands
• Environmental Non-Profits

The Model

• Professional Development
• EE Unit Creation
• Instruction, Coaching, Capstone
**Goal:** Support school districts to thoughtfully and creatively integrate environmental literacy, ensuring environmental literacy for all students.

- Connecting district teams with regional environmental education providers
- Developing a district-wide Environmental Literacy Plan
- Alameda Unified School District
- Pajaro Valley Unified School District
- Petaluma City Schools
Kids Making Sense-Brawley High School
The Journey Continues...
How?

We will advance EE by:

• Obtaining federal *funding* from ESSA
• Forming *partnerships*
• Creating *model programs* in school districts, learning from each other
• Capitalizing on this wave of excitement
BECOME A MODEL DISTRICT
IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS
OBTAIN FUNDING
DEVELOP/ENHANCE PLANS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS
LEARN ABOUT ESSA AND EE

LADDER OF ENGAGEMENT
“ESSA is a tremendous victory for advocates of environmental education...numerous studies show the positive effect of experiential outdoor learning on student development and academic achievement.”

~Congressman John Sarbanes
Environmental education has been singled out for the first time in history in the K-12 authorization bill...
Every Student Succeeds Act

Title IV: Part A “Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants”

Title IV: Part B “21st Century Community Learning Centers”
**Title IV, Part A--$1.6B Authorized, Appropriation Unknown**

- "Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants", new block grant, provides students with a "well-rounded" education including environmental education, history, civics, and STEM, among others
- States submit plan; Distribution of funds dependent on funding level
- LEAs receiving $30k or more conduct needs assessment prior to applying for funds
Title IV-Part A-$1.6B Authorized

- LEAs receiving at least $30K, 20% of Part A needs to be for at least one of the “well rounded” disciplines.
- LEAs may partner with LEAs, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations and businesses in developing these programs.
Process

- State agency Implementation Taskforces, stakeholder teams
- Listening sessions & tours underway/concluding
- Plans posted for public comment
- State plans submitted to U.S. Ed, April and Sept.
- Formula funds distributed
Title IV-Part A-$1.6B Authorized,

Full implementation likely for 2017-2018 school year; regulatory changes and appropriations may impact timing
Title IV-Part B-$1B Authorized, $1B current funding level

- “21st Century Community Learning Centers” focusing on out-of-school and afterschool programs
- This is an existing grant program. A new eligible activities is environmental education. STEM is also a priority
- Targeting Title 1 schools and programs
Title IV-Part B-$1B Authorized, $1B current funding level

- Formula to states; Competitive grants to localities. 3-5 year grant periods. Funding level examples for FY2015: VA $18M, MD $15M and CA $132M

- Who can apply: local school systems, community-based organizations, private and public entities and a consortium of agencies

- States will administer, monitor and evaluate approved programs
Guidance

New guidance released on Oct 21st specifies environmental education as an allowable activity.

- SPOTLIGHT: Many schools across the nation provide environmental education classes for students. Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is one example of an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT provides educators with supplementary curriculum materials, professional development, and resources to integrate.
How can North American Association for Environmental Education help?
Resources:

• Models and best practices resources for integrated PreK-12 EE

• Research on EE-student outcomes

• Policy and funding support

• Facilitated collaboration between formal and nonformal educators
Partners:

- Affiliates across the nation
- Connections with environmental education organizations nationwide
How can Project Learning Tree help?
Project Learning Tree offers...

- Curriculum guides aligned to national and state standards
- Professional development for educators
- Online resources www.plt.org
- GreenWorks! and GreenSchools
Partners:

• Coordinators in each state

• Connections with many districts across the country

• Connections with environmental education organizations in each
Who is willing to pass on information to their state supers?
Wrap Up

SEEC EVENTS

A Webinar on Environmental Education for Superintendents

Tuesday, May 2
1:00-2:00PM EST
Who: Superintendents

www.sups4ee.org
Wrap Up

www.supc4ee.org