

CALIFORNIA

Environmental Education: Environmental Principles and Concepts.



OVERVIEW

**SB 720;
Chapter 374**

**ADOPTED
9/13/18**

**CLIMATE
JUSTICE IS
CENTRAL TO
THIS BILL**

- In 2003, AB 1548 (Education and the Environment Initiative) passed and created California's Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&Cs).
- In 2015, a California Blueprint for Environmental Literacy and Environmental Literacy Steering Committee (now called the California Environmental Literacy Initiative) were created. The Blueprint and Committee were not backed by policy, so Ten Strands and their advisors explored strategies for formalizing these environmental literacy commitments through law.
- In 2018, using the big ideas from the Blueprint and the EP&Cs, California passed SB 720. While the EP&Cs already existed because of AB 1548, SB 720 added them into the state's Education Code.
- The original list of topics covered in the EP&Cs did not include climate change; climate change and environmental justice were added by SB 720 in 2018.
- SB 720 codifies the EP&Cs in the Education Code as the state's definition of environmental literacy.
- In 2021, AB 130, SEC. 151 appropriated \$6M to create curricular resources focused on climate change and environmental justice. The EP&Cs will be integrated throughout.

COALITION

Ten Strands sponsored this bill with support from a broad coalition.

TARGET AUDIENCE

California's 5.8 million K-12 public school students and their teachers.

FUNDING

The California Senate provided no funding through SB 720.

IMPACT

SB 720 builds on AB 1548, the California Blueprint for Environmental Literacy, and other environmental literacy initiatives, advancing their impact by formalizing core ideas in California state law. This bill establishes an official definition of environmental literacy in California that includes climate change and environmental justice as central topic areas.



**Coalition for Climate
Education Policy**

**[Link to find
more
information](#)**

**Contact:
Karen Cowe, CEO of Ten Strands,
kcowe@tenstrands.org**