

March 4, 2021

Dear Education Workgroup,

It was a pleasure to meet you over Zoom on Monday, March 1st. Thank you for attending and for all the helpful feedback. Big thanks to Olivia Wisner for the Zoom line and for taking notes. Links to the notes and meeting materials are below. Also included are the next steps, some key takeaways, and some specific ideas, programs, and comments from the Workgroup.

Meeting Materials

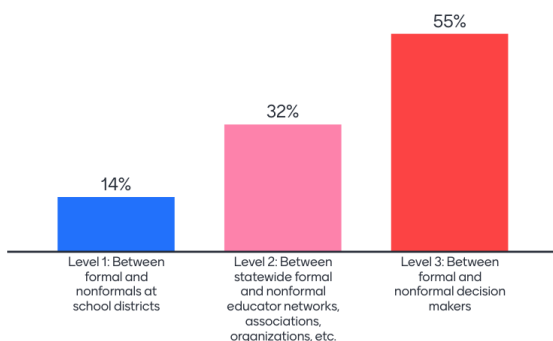
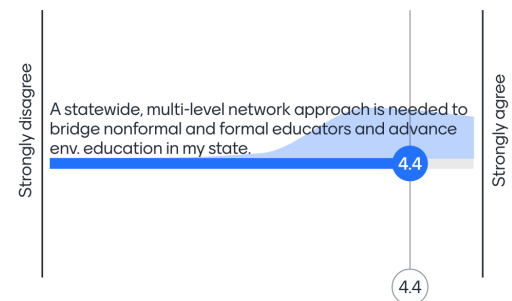
- [Informing the Development of a Regional Outdoor Learning Network Landscape Assessment](#)
- [State Model - Environmental Literacy Network of Networks](#)
- [Meeting Notes](#)

Next Steps

- **You are invited!** March 11th 2:30 - 3:00. This will be an open chat (Zoom info below and the calendar link is forthcoming).
- Late March/Early April - presentation to state networks
- April - Regional Outdoor Learning Network Organizational Map Introduction

Takeaways

We were encouraged to see that most of you strongly agree a multi-level approach is needed to advance environmental education, and that many of you want to engage in the next steps, with some even asking if this could be part of the Education Workgroup's agenda. We also heard loud and clear that this should not duplicate effort.



More than 50% of you felt that reaching the Level 3 decision-makers needs significant investment if we want to ensure all students graduate environmentally literate. And still, we heard reaching administrators and curriculum developers pose significant challenges.

For more information or to just share your ideas, please contact Christy Gabbard at christy@localconceptsllc.com or at 540-558-8010.

“One of the most challenging disconnects in PA is directly reaching administrators or curriculum advisors in over 500 school districts.”

We also heard the timing for advancing environmental education may be right given what everyone has experienced with Covid and with the new administration.

“We have a tremendous opportunity right now in this moment as we shift to the Biden Admin priorities. We should pivot our message to lean much more heavily on climate change and its urgency.”

Thank you for the thoughtful and practical questions that centered on “who” and “how”. For example: Who will make this approach happen? How will it be implemented? How to ensure participation without overloading those that are already stretched thin?

We look forward to discussing this more with you in the future. Hope you can join us on March 11th for a brief chat 2:30-3:00 pm. Use the Zoom link below.

Your Work - Notable Mentions

In general, you all shared lots of enthusiasm for environmental education, teachers, and your organizations.

Grace Manubay, DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education, we're going to start updating social studies standards and looking for environmental connections (who can help me?!)

Betsy, NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation ... Syracuse, NY (aka the Grey Cloud area) We have no mandate from State Ed to do EE / it will only be pulled from current learning standards

Anne Petersen, Virginia Department of Education, currently working at the national and state level towards informing/encouraging/engaging educators with place-based learning to support equitable science instruction.

Bert Myers, PA DEP, participating from home in York, Pa. Excited about developing the recommended recipients for the 2022 DEP EE Grant program

Erin Sullivan - US EPA Region 3 - working from Pitman, NJ. Looking to continue to bridge all my work responsibilities into EE... I'm the new Children's Health Coordinator for our Region.

Susan Parker, WVDEP Youth Environmental Program WV, MWEES, Project Wet, Project Learning Tree

Pri Ekanayake, Dept of Energy and the Environment, DC. We are looking for more ways to support outdoor environmental education here in DC!

For more information or to just share your ideas, please contact Christy Gabbard at christy@localconceptsllc.com or at 540-558-8010.

Candace Lutzow-Felling, Virginia Resource-Use Education Council, Virginia statewide organization of EE providers; EE & ELIT is growing in importance in VA with our new standards and new emphasis on school divisions ELIT plans

Check out the [USFS Stewardship Mapping Assessment Project](#)

Zoom Info

Open Discussion - March 11th 2:30-3:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82564490190>

Meeting ID: 825 6449 0190

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82564490190# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,82564490190# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 825 6449 0190

June 3, 2021

A big thank you to all 54 of you who attended the state networks meeting on April 29th. We are so pleased by all of the interest and engagement. Following are some important links, a meeting summary, resources shared, and some next steps.

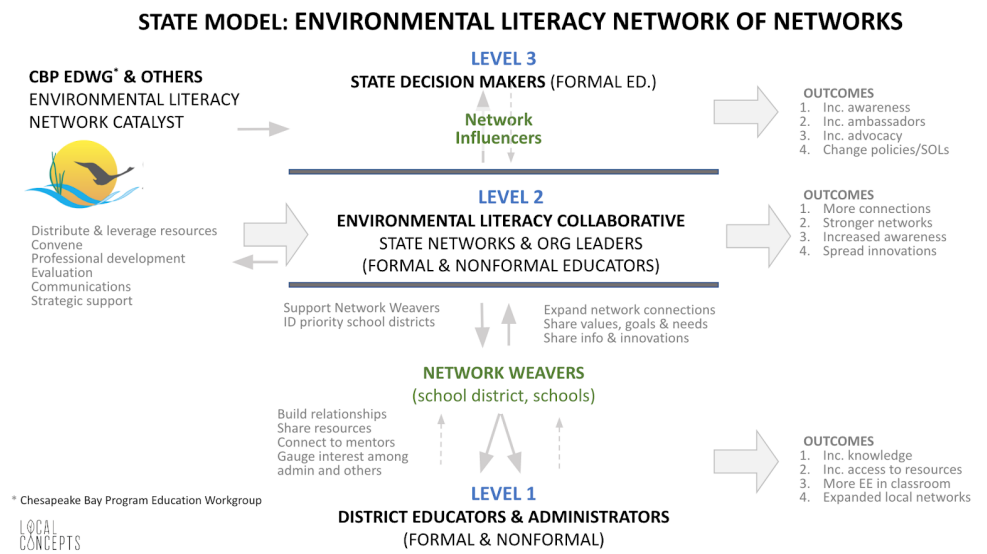
Key Links:

[Attendee list & raw meeting notes](#) (includes chat box discussion, breakout room summaries, and questions folks posted in MentiMeter)

[Meeting Recording + 30 min. Introduction Presentation](#) (includes all MentiMeter results)

Meeting Summary:

The majority of meeting attendees are currently working at Level 2 (47%) and Level 1 (42%) with 11% working at Level 3. The group strongly agrees that a statewide, multi-level network approach is needed to bridge nonformal and formal educators and advance environmental education in their respective states. The group was more evenly distributed in their answers about which level they think requires more investment in their state to advance system environmental literacy; Level 1 (36%), Level 2 (30%), Level 3 (34%).



For more information or to just share your ideas, please contact Sonia Keiner at sonia@localconceptsllc.com or Christy Gabbard at christy@localconceptsllc.com or at 540-558-8010.

State Breakouts Summary:

Across states, folks think the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup should be exerting influence on policy at state and federal levels and on state standards in addition to providing network support (convening, communicating), funding and professional development opportunities.

When it comes to the barriers and possibilities for building better connections between state-level formal & nonformal networks and organizations while ensuring that JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) processes and practices are centered, the themes that emerge across states are the need for:

- Capacity Building and Incentives (funding, aligned values and goals, coordination/backbone support, improved communication pathways, shared messaging)
- Network-Building (cohesion, include more local support and funders)
- Professional Development (educators and administrators)
- Influencing Decision-Makers
- District-Level Engagement (urban and under resourced communities; other sectors - e.g. public health, cultural institutions)
- More JEDI training & analysis
- Increased diversity (of people and perspectives)

Shared Resources:

- Best resources are the students
- Bay Backpack
- MWEE Facilitator's Guide
- iNaturalist
- Earth Force resources
- PA DCNR Watershed Education Program
- DE Assoc. For Environmental Education new website
- MAEOE
- MWEE resources
- DE Association for Environmental Education
- Find Your Chesapeake
- Biologists at the agencies
- [Freedom Seekers Curriculum](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Program - discover the Chesapeake](#)
- NOAA

For more information or to just share your ideas, please contact
Sonia Keiner at sonia@localconceptsllc.com or Christy Gabbard at christy@localconceptsllc.com or at 540-558-8010.

- University of MD Center for Environmental Science scientists
- Green News Report, BradCast, The Guardian.
- STEM Teaching Tools #68 - 70

Next Steps & Where Your Help is Needed:

- **Help us connect to others!** During the assessment phase, stakeholders told us about [over 200 organizations](#) they thought should be involved. Please take a moment to check out the spreadsheet, add to it, and if you know someone there, please add their contact information. Thank you!
- Share the [infographic overview](#) with your colleagues.
- Join us Thursday, July 15, 10-11:30AM for our next state network meeting. Invite coming!

THANK YOU!

For more information or to just share your ideas, please contact
Sonia Keiner at sonia@localconceptsllc.com or Christy Gabbard at christy@localconceptsllc.com or at 540-558-8010.