Environmental Education

AND THE **EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT**

WHY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION?

Mounting research* demonstrates that environmental education:

- Improves academic performance across content areas
- Enhances critical thinking skills
- Develops personal growth and life-building skills including confidence, autonomy, and leadership
- Increases civic engagement and positive environmental behaviors
- Reduces discipline and classroom management problems
- Increases engagement and enthusiasm for learning
- Enhances physical health and is associated with emotional well-being

eeRESEARCH 🔍 *Learn more about the research showing that environmental education affords a wide variety of benefits to students as well as their teachers at **naaee.org/eeresearch**.

REAL-WORLD LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

More than ever, **environmental literacy** is critical for our students. Environmentally literate students can demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the environment, the circumstances and conditions affecting it, and society's impact on the world. They investigate and analyze issues, make accurate conclusions about effective solutions, and take individual and collective action towards addressing challenges.

Environmental education is the learning process through which students and citizens attain environmental literacy. It offers a powerful, interdisciplinary approach to teaching that includes place-based learning, field experiences, service learning, and other hands-on and authentic educational experiences that support STEAM and other grade level subjects.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ESSA FUNDING

Funding from the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) can be used to introduce or expand environmental education in your school district as part of your efforts to provide a well-rounded education.

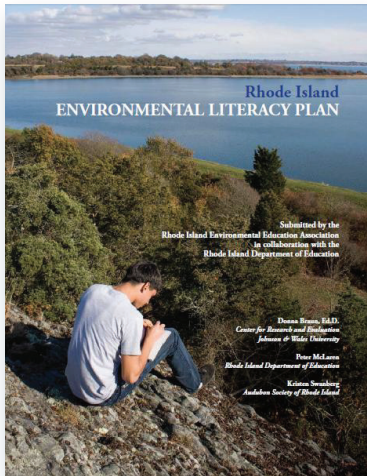**Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction**

- Supporting professional development for teachers and para-professionals in environmental education-specific teaching strategies and resources.

Title IV, Part A: Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants, and Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers
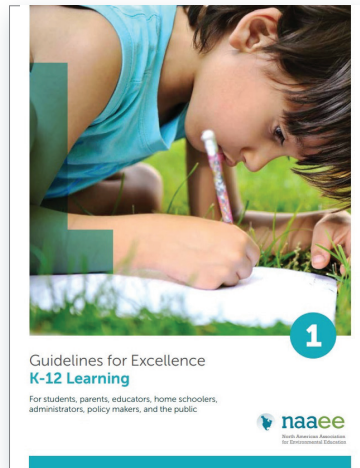
- Integrating curriculum-aligned, hands-on, field-based learning experiences and citizen science research into classroom teaching.
- Increasing partnerships with schools and community-based environmental education providers.

Rhode Island was among the first states in the nation to complete an Environmental Literacy Plan which **outlines strategies to ensure students develop basic environmental literacy** through standards, graduation requirements, assessment, professional development, implementation, and funding.

The North American Association for Environmental Education has developed Guidelines for Excellence in K–12 Education that are **aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards**.

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) can connect you to like-minded teachers, informal educators, students, state agency officers, and community leaders in your area. RIEEA also provides **professional development and other support** to promote excellence in environmental education.

Search the directory

Search…

RIEEA has compiled a comprehensive and diverse list of organizations and opportunities in our **Educator Resource Directory**, including those that provide programs, field experiences, materials and curricula, grants, and more. Search by grade, topic, type of program, and more!

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