

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – May 2022
Chesapeake Bay Program



Environmental Literacy

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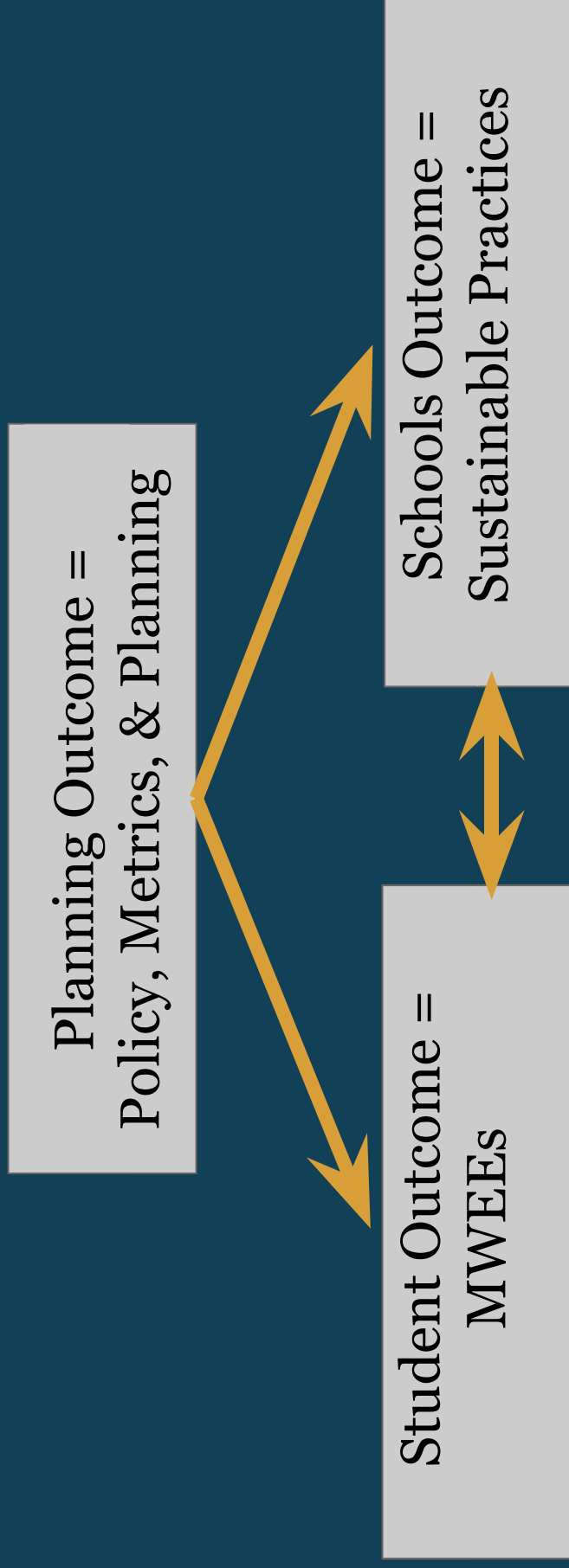
*NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
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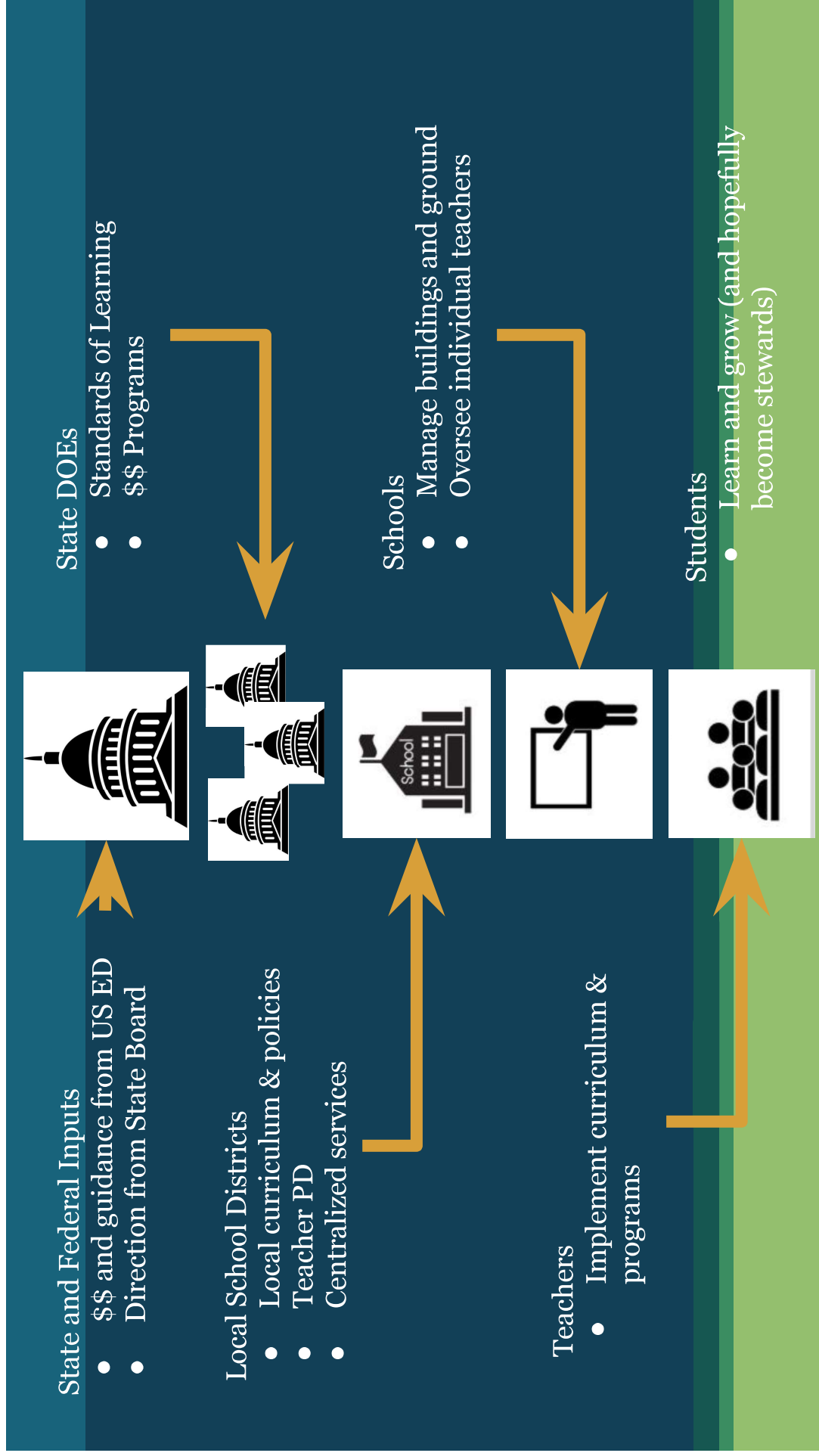
Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Environmental Literacy*
Enable students in the region to graduate with the knowledge and skills to act responsibly to protect and restore their local watershed

Environmental Literacy Goal







Context

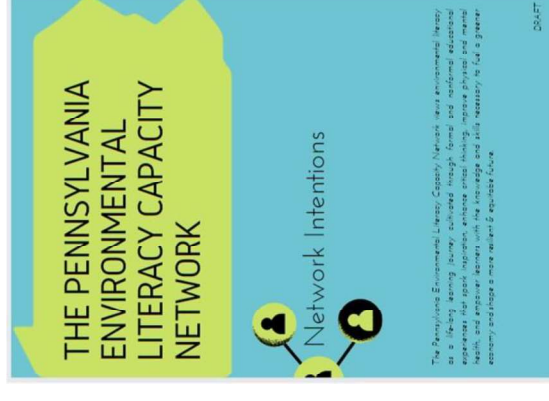


- Coming out of COVID
 - *Schools dealing with unprecedented large scale learning loss*
 - *Supporting structures and education staff at partner orgs largely intact*
 - *Many individual programs disrupted or halted (uneven across districts)*
- Funding
 - *NOAA B-WET in President's Budget for first time*
 - *School districts received large amounts of COVID relief funding*
 - *Potential for infusion of \$\$ from several Biden Administration priorities*
- Climate Change Directive



Regional Effort

- Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Network
 - Network-of-networks effort launched with GIT funding with continued funding from NOAA and the Pisces Fdn via CBT
 - Phase 1: Exploration Phase (2020)
 - *More supportive policies at state and local level*
 - *More partnerships/trainings for educators*
 - *More funding/resources, especially in under-resourced communities*
 - Phase 2: Formation Phase (2021-22)
 - *Series of 10 REGIONAL learning sessions to establish state networks*
 - Phase 3: (2022-23)
 - *Shift focus to expand, strengthen, and diversify STATE networks*





State Efforts - DC

- Updated Environmental Literacy Plan in 2020
- Established Environmental Literacy Advisory Committee
- Piloted Capital LEAF - a pathway to U.S. Green Ribbon School recognition
- Revising social studies standards
 - *Students will investigate society's impact on environment and equitable access to natural resources*



State Efforts - DE

- The Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE) is localizing the MWEE Facilitator's Guide
- Piloting the development of district level environmental literacy plans
- First state to pilot NGSX: Oceans, Climate Science and Big Data (focused on watersheds & the oceans)
- Increased focus on connection CTE with Environmental Literacy
- Hosted 3rd annual DE Youth Summit



State Efforts - MD

- Established new Environmental Literacy standards
- Enacted Maryland Green Schools Act of 2019
 - \$1.5M to grow the number of Green Schools in Maryland by 50% by 2026
- Project Green Classrooms received grant to support professional learning about environmental literacy for faculty who reach pre-service teachers



State Efforts - PA

- Moving new PA Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology and Engineering towards adoption
- PA Environmental Literacy Task Force convenes partners with the goal of more and better MWEs
- DEP grant funding increased to \$633K
 - 63 projects funded with 92% of them in identified EJ areas
- Outdoor Learning Network Initiative
 - Lancaster school districts (Conestoga Valley, Ephrata, Columbia)



State Efforts - VA

- 2 new Environmental Literacy Coordinator positions proposed in the state budget for DCR
 - *Will work to coordinate a state environmental literacy strategy*
- Virginia Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) hired its first part-time Executive Director
- VAEE and VRUEC – two major partners for EE in VA – have committed to enhanced collaboration and are exploring the development of a state network for EE



State Efforts - WV



- Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) launched Sep 2019
 - *Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties*
 - *Experience Learning, Cacapon, & Audubon*



What is Needed?

1. Establish environment-focused pathways in both Career Technical Education (CTE) and STEM for each state to produce workforce ready graduates.
2. Sustainable funding to implement systemic environmental literacy programming in each school district.
3. Up-to-date data and information from every school district in the watershed on their efforts to create and sustain EL programming.
4. Maintain high level focus and coordination of state cabinet members and partners on Environmental Literacy Goal.