

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – May, 2022  
*Chesapeake Bay Program*



# Student Outcome

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

## Goal: Environmental Literacy

**Student Outcome:** Continually increase students' age-appropriate understanding of the watershed through participation in teacher-supported, meaningful watershed educational experiences and rigorous, inquiry-based instruction, with a target of at least one meaningful watershed educational experience in elementary, middle and high school depending on available resources.



Students from Warwick High School in Litzitz, Pa., take a water quality sample from Litzitz Run. (Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)

Changes in MWEE Availability in the Watershed: Elementary Grades (2015-2019)



2019 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) data, self-reported at the school district level. Next ELIT survey will be administered in 2022.

Changes in MWEE Availability in the Watershed: Middle School Grades (2015-2019)



2019 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) data, self-reported at the school district level. Next ELIT survey will be administered in 2022.

# Changes in MWEE Availability in the Watershed: High School Grades (2015-2019)

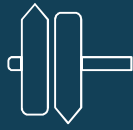


2019 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) data, self-reported at the school district level. Next ELIT survey will be administered in 2022.



# Learn

*What have we learned in the last  
two years?*



## Successes and Challenges



Students learn about water quality during Living Classroom's SLURRP program in 2016 at Masonville Cove. The nonprofit received a grant to transition their program to a virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Photos by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)

*Thank you!*

EPA Chesapeake Bay Office re-allocated funds for emergency grants to support non-profit environmental literacy providers

- Virtual adaptation of programs
- Distribution of Grow-at-Home kits
- Socially distanced outdoor events
- Creation of new online resources



## Successes and Challenges

### **What Worked:**

- Emergency grant funds for environmental literacy providers
- Creative new tools/ being adaptable
- Champions in the pre-service space

### **What Didn't Work:**

- COVID-19:
  - Likely less full-fidelity MWEEs
  - Impeded efforts to connect with education leadership
  - Unclear how many districts were able to use COVID relief funds to support environmental education efforts





## On the Horizon

What is impacting our progress?

- Virtual professional development
- Lack of staff dedicated to coordinating field experiences, supporting student action, and developing partnerships
- Transportation cost barrier
- Connecting MWEEs and environmental education to other significant education priorities
- Focus on systemic, equitable, and sustainable as framing for MWEE implementation
- Increase focus on climate change education



Fourth grade students from Granby Elementary School shown marsh periwinkle on the Elizabeth River Project (ERP) Learning Barge, moored at the Grandy Village Learning Center, in Norfolk, Va., on Oct. 23, 2015. (Photo by Will Parson/ Chesapeake Bay Program)



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# Adapt

*How does all of this impact our work?*



## Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- Leverage research demonstrating the health and safety benefits of outdoor learning
- Build on the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Education Network initiative within states and within Bay Program partnership
- Address the costs associated with systemic and sustainable programs (needed for district-level planning and professional development)
- Align with state and local education priorities (STEM, workforce, social-emotional learning, agriculture ed, etc.)
- Build a climate change education portfolio related to EL

### Mid-Atlantic Environmental Education Network

BIO SURVEY CONNECTIONS MAP MY PREFERENCES

#### Directory

*This view shows individual information and allows you click on specific topics so you can easily find persons by their survey responses.*

You can click on each round circle and see a pop-up on the left hand side that shows information about each person.

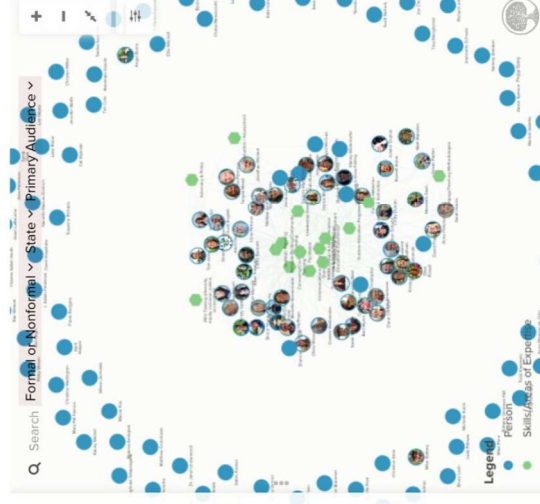
Once you're comfortable with this view, move to the views below to see how everyone is connected!

#### Connections

This view shows the strength of your connectivity! In this view you can also filter by state and whether folks are in the formal or nonformal education system.

#### Skills/Areas of Expertise

This view visualizes network participant skills and connection. You can also filter here





## Equitable and inclusive restoration ...

- Partners and funders using ELIT/ Equity Mapper used to identify priority geographies
- Increasing communication among funding entities to more equitably distribute existing funding
- The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI) provides funding, grant management, and systemic partnership expertise to under resourced districts.



## Awareness

### What do we want you to know?

- The pre-service teacher training programs need to incorporate environmental literacy
- Environmental Literacy needs to be better connected with CTE/STEM/Social and Emotional Learning /Ag Science – as an avenue to diversifying workforce
- Include environmental literacy funding opportunities as an allowable use for federal and state funds, including pandemic recovery funding.



# Student Outcome Discussion

*In the spirit of networks, partnerships, and funding, are there existing state initiatives that could be supportive of the Student Outcome (MWEE)? Any remaining COVID funding to support this work?*