



OUTCOME: Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the impact of their buildings and grounds on their local watershed, environment and human health through best practices, including student-led protection and restoration projects.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The [Sustainable Schools Outcome](#) is on course. The indicator for this outcome looks to increase the number of sustainable schools in the watershed. The indicator shows the number of sustainable schools has increased from 501 in 2015, to 610 in 2017, to 634 in 2019.

BACKGROUND: It has been over 20 years since the Chesapeake Executive Council adopted Directive 98- 1: [Chesapeake Bay Program Education Initiative](#), formally recognizing the importance of education to the Chesapeake Bay Program. In June 2012, the Education Workgroup released a strategy that outlined how the federal government should support state efforts to advance environmental literacy. The priorities identified in the strategy served as the basis for including the Sustainable Schools Outcome in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. To achieve this outcome, the Education Workgroup coordinates with state agencies, local governments and schools to provide the resources and funding needed to install sustainable features in schools.

BASELINE: In 2015, 501 schools were considered sustainable.

DATA SOURCE: Data for this outcome is collected from public and charter K-12 schools in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that are certified sustainable through a state or national program (e.g., U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools). Data is updated every two years.