



## STUDENT EXPERIENCES OUTCOME [STUDENT OUTCOME]

### STEWARDSHIP GIT (GIT5)/ EDUCATION WORKGROUP

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

##### PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

**Name:** Student Experiences Outcome

Continually increase the number of students who participate in inquiry-based environmental literacy instruction with a target of at least one Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience in each elementary, middle, and high school.

##### EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

**Name:** 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.

PROPOSED TARGET (SMART, Directional, etc.). (Suggested time horizon of 2040 for achievement of draft output.)	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
By 2040, state targets are reached that result in XX% of public school students being enrolled in a school district that offers a MWEE for all students.	Update of existing target	May 2025
By 2040, XX% of public school students in [INSERT JURISDICTION] will be enrolled in a school district that offers a MWEE for all students.	New target	May 2025

\*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

##### Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:

Ensuring that all students across the watershed receive high-quality environmental education and meaningful outdoor experiences is crucial to fostering environmentally literate future generations. These individuals will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to think critically and act responsibly to protect and restore their local watershed.

The updated outcome language is more succinct and better conveys that other types of inquiry-based instruction can contribute to student stewardship and be important building blocks of the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE). It also continues to emphasize that striving for multiple MWEEs is important, while placing the emphasis on ensuring that every school district has at least one MWEE built into their instructional program. Another important change is updating the name of the outcome from "Student Outcome" to "Student Experiences Outcome". This change was made because

in the education field “student outcomes” typically refer to learning objectives for students.

The updated outcome with its associated target language is SMART and reflects the current needs and priorities of state and federal agencies and other formal and nonformal education partners in the region as determined by a robust engagement process. The proposed target is based on data from the Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT), which is sent to all school districts in the region. The 2024 data collection represented 74% of public school students in the region. In addition to the output/target, the Workgroup also plans to maintain metrics to track:

1. Environmental education experiences that are not MWEEs to better understand and build upon their valuable contributions to environmental literacy.
2. Percentage of the public school student population who are receiving MWEEs in each grade band (e.g. elementary, middle, and high).
3. State commitments and contributions towards the overarching target.

#### **Methodology for data collection:**

The Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) will continue to be used to measure and track progress towards the Student Experiences Outcome. The Education Workgroup will work with an evaluation expert to revise the tool to ensure that it accurately measures progress toward the outcome.

#### **Links to documentation that provide Target justification/context and/or rationale (Optional):**

- [Student Outcome Two-Pager](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Region 2024 Environmental Literacy Report](#)