



## Education Workgroup Meeting

[SLIDES](#)

**Monday April 8, 2024**

**10:00 am - 11:30 am Virtual meeting via [Zoom Link](#)**

Or by phone +1 (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 837 9673 3455

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### Meeting Goals

- To gather ideas/ suggestions for events and groups that would be beneficial for the Education Workgroup's summer intern, Apoorva Ajith, to conduct listening sessions at or with. These listening sessions will collect community input to guide Beyond 2025 planning related to the EL outcome.
- To provide an update on the Scope 8 - Career & Workforce Programming Landscape Analysis GIT-Funded project.
- To discuss the promotion, needs, and future of ELIT 2024.
- To provide an opportunity for states to plan their next steps for actions outlined in the recently red/yellow/green-ed Work Plan, and to ask the workgroup at large for support if needed.

### 10:00 Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome & Opening Comments
- Shannon & Meredith contextualize the first breakout session:
  - This summer, the Education Workgroup (EWG) will have an intern, Apoorva Ajith, who will support the EWG in thinking through what Beyond 2025 will look like. Apoorva will gather community input on what the next Agreement's EL outcomes should include by conducting focus groups/listening sessions virtually and at strategic convenings.
  - The goal of these listening sessions is to (1) hear diverse community perspectives about environmental literacy and education, and (2) gather priorities at community and state levels to later elevate to the regional level where relevant.

### 10:10 Breakout Session 1

- Small groups in breakout rooms responded to the following three questions on this [Canva Whiteboard](#):
  1. How do you imagine you/your state supporting the focus groups?
  2. What events/convenings/etc are going on between May 23 - July 15 (ish) that might bring together diverse groups of people who could weigh in on future EL priorities?

### 3. What groups might we consider working with to co-host a focus group?

#### 10:30 GIT Funded Project Updates

- Presentation on Scope 8 - Career & Workforce Programming Landscape Analysis by Cedric Thompson, CEO WE Strategies, [cedric.thompson@we-strategies.us](mailto:cedric.thompson@we-strategies.us)
  - [SLIDES](#)
- WE Strategies was brought on by the Chesapeake Bay Trust to conduct a Career Landscape Analysis. Their research methodology involved hosting focus groups to look at who career training providers are among Chesapeake Bay states. The methodology was built around qualitative research defined by credibility, transferability, dependability, confirmability, and authenticity.
- Questions:
  - BeKura Shabazz – Who were the groups that participated and how was the selection process done?
    - There were monthly meetings with the project advisory team who designed the “type” of group based on some of the questions they wanted to address. HR was largely federal agencies (e.g., NOAA, EPA), government agency representatives (like MD DNR).
  - BeKura – How were underrepresented groups defined - are those people or organizations? How were they selected?
    - They were people. The project advisory group selected individuals to contact. Individuals were also encouraged to recommend others in their networks and communities to participate.

#### 10:50 [2024 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool \(ELIT\) Promotion](#)

- Elise shared an overview of the ELIT process and timeline and the group discussed promoting ELIT and the future of ELIT.
  - Summary of the state questions – [State Questions for 2024 ELIT](#)
  - Timeline update/ Questions for discussion
- (1) Elise – **Is it better to stick with our timeline of opening ASAP and closing in October or do we want to have a smaller window to emphasize urgency?**
- Anne Petersen - Doesn't think there is ever a perfect time. She agrees that summer time is the best time to dedicate to the robust survey.
  - Payton Hesse - I'm curious about when we'll know whether it's opening in May/June vs. the fall.
    - Elise - I will let you know as soon as I know, likely late April.

- Payton Hesse - EL collaborative is next week, I'm wondering about priming this at the next meeting.
- Olivia - I'd defer to our formal Ed partners on the call about timeline since they know what works best for the LEA points of contact.

(2) Elise – **How might you consider using networks to increase ELIT responses? Have you considered bringing this up in upcoming agendas?**

- Anne Petersen - VSELA is coming up and would be a good opportunity.
  - Challenge - the people who come to VSELA are coming to the table and will continue coming to the table but how do we reach out to those who are not?
- Steve Kerlin - Multi-pronged approach, earlier knowledge of when it's opening is the better, script for an email is helpful, we're sending out a message to formal and nonformal educators in the coming weeks so we'll use that same spreadsheet/catalog for the future. Our intermediate units that serve 500 school districts will be used also. In mid-May we have an EL stakeholders meeting, so if we know by that point it would be great. Regional hubs also meet frequently. We'll send it as widespread as possible.
- Jemima Clark - Trying to capture data by county would be valuable to pass out to people filling out forms at LEA level. Is there a way to consolidate data to make filling out the form both easier and more accurate?
  - There's systems, partners, and curricular integration questions.
  - There's opportunities to help facilitate filling out information more accurately.
- Olivia - Jemima are you thinking of including data like that for this round of ELIT? Or preparing the green school app so that can happen in the next round?
  - Jemima - probably next round Olivia! But happy to offer existing GS Application Access by county (LEA for MD) to help support accurate data for ELIT tool completion this year/summer
- Grace Manubay - We meet with the science supervisor directly. Now if you want to figure out whether/how charters should be included, then it will be more complicated. :)
- Candace Lutzow-Felling - VA-as we build network capacity we be able to provide support to more school divisions for completing the ELit tool

- David Pragoff (DE) - 4 years ago only had 2 school districts do it, last year we had 16 out of 19. The challenge we're going to run into now is who the contact within DOE will be moving forward. So it may be more on the network getting the survey out than on formal ed in the near future.
- Frank Rodgers - WV OLNI has projects in 7 of 8 counties 🙌
- 2024 ELIT Promotion Conversation:
  - The expectation is that DOEs are the leads on this – consider what your strategy is going to be to push this out (strategic meetings with district leaders, email blasts, etc)
  - We also hope you engage your state partners in promoting this. Are there upcoming meetings where you can be sharing about this (i.e. Project Green Classrooms, VEN, PA EL Network, DAEE, etc)?
    - NOAA folks are able to support you in communicating about this.
  - We will also be asking state networks about ELIT and if they are having their needs met by the questions that are being asked. What do you want to see in the future? What info do you need to do your work better?

#### **11:05 Bay Backpack Blogs/ Quarterly E-Blasts Update**

- We plan to post a state project focused blog post once every 2-3 months, so keep an eye out for emails from Meredith, Krysta, or Elise. We may reach out to see if you're interested in highlighting a state project.
- Thank you to Melinda Landry and Jeanne Jabara for writing a post about Prince William County Public Schools Environmental Literacy Plan for May.
- We are also reviving the Newsletter, and the plan is to send it out quarterly.

#### **11:10 Breakout Session 2/ Work Plan Review**

- Thanks for completing the red, yellow, green – this was done individually and now we want to give you all a chance to reflect on any patterns and ID any actions that need to be reoriented/prioritized between now and the end of the year.
  - Based on what you are seeing after the red/yellow/green exercise, what are the next steps to advance the work laid out in your state?
  - What support, if at all, do you need from the workgroup at large?
- States discuss next steps in breakout rooms and write notes on the [Canva Whiteboard](#)

#### **11:30 Adjourn**