Education Workgroup Meeting, Quarter 1
SLIDES
Monday, January 27, 2025
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Virtual meeting via Zoom Link
Or dial in by phone: +1 646 931 3860
Meeting ID: 829 2491 4650
Passcode: 871059

On the Call: *Elise T, Meredith L, Bart M, Krysta H, Shannon S, Emily S, Britt S, Coreen W, Lindsey W, Jessica S, Olivia W, Ellen P, Denise P-C, Chris K, Courtney H, Zachary C, Frank R, Stephanie T, Amy W, Adrienne F, Candace L-F, Laura C, Kim H, Gabriel D, Julie, Lori S, Anna D, Grace M, Michelle N, Vince M, Tammie P, Sonia S, Stephanie B, David P, Susan C, Tom A, Megan F, Karen, Margarita R, Betsy, Chelsea M, Adrienne K, Kathleen B, Carrie E, Cassi*

MINUTES

10:00   Welcome & Introductions

10:10   New Outcome Review
- Shannon reviewed the outcome assessment process/timeline and recapped the draft outcome statements. Draft outcome statement language can be found in the SLIDES.
  - The draft outcome statements were developed with feedback from the Education workgroup's summer listening sessions, the responses to a feedback form distributed in December, and meetings with network leaders and state agency representatives throughout January.
- This meeting aimed to achieve consent to move the draft outcome statements forward. A majority of state agency representatives indicated their consent to recommend to the management board that the Student and EL Planning Outcomes should be updated, and the Sustainable Schools Outcome should be reclassified as an indicator under the Planning Outcome. A few members indicated having questions, and a few were not in attendance.

Questions and Answers about the proposed revisions to the Student Outcome:
- How will we get information if districts don't report?
  - The outcome will not be speaking to what's happening in the non-reporting districts. We will only be reporting on the students we know are receiving experiences, but we will only know if they're receiving experiences if the districts report on the ELIT. N will be the number of students enrolled in the entire region. Change over time will be reflected in just the number of districts who are reporting.
- Is it just the Chesapeake Bay watershed districts?
  - We look at the whole state/jurisdiction for PA, VA, MD, DC, DE, and then just 8 school districts in WV.
- Any comments on a statewide approach?

- ○ Candace - For VA the statewide approach will help advance ELit in our state. (+1 from Olivia Wisner & Laura Casdorph)
- ○ Frank - Will we have to know the student population of each district? → Yes. We have that data.
- ○ Tammie - I think it is very important to do statewide. But I'm concerned with the magnitude of our state. It all depends on the % I suppose (+1 from Michelle N)
- ○ Grace- For clarity, DC currently has one REPORTING district. We have 70 school districts :)
- ○ Betsy- NYS has over 500 school districts statewide.
    - ■ Amy- If we take the same approach as WV there is about 120ish, correct?
    - ■ Betsy- if you are talking about in-watershed, possibly. still way beyond what most of those districts can do. And StateEd not focusing on this
    - ■ Amy- Absolutely, we want to help do whatever we can to make it happen in those districts because we know the Dept of Ed is not really focused on it so we can help with funding, curriculum, PD, or direct technical assistance
    - ■ Betsy- And tech we did not sign onto the Literacy part of the agreement
- ○ Shannon- in previous iterations of the Watershed Agreement states were able to opt in or out of specific outcomes. NY, DE, WV not currently signed onto ELIT Outcome.
- ● Laura - In previous iterations of the draft revised Outcome language, there was a proposal to go down to two MWEEs, I'm curious what brought it back up to three?
    - ○ Shannon - We had some conversations with additional states after VA that thought they would lose some ground and not be able to keep making the progress they've been making in their jurisdictions if the bar were lowered to two MWEEs (one in primary, one in secondary). So the compromise there was to put the indicator at one. So actually, the indicator is a lower bar than the 2 and more attainable. But there is space created for there to be one MWEE in each elementary, middle, and high school to help prevent loss of ground.
    - ○ Tammie - Yes, we as a group in PA felt like it would be a step back instead of trying to continue to push forward. In PA, we just wrote the MWEE elements into standards, so in every grade band if they follow the standard they should be doing a MWEE (whether they call it a MWEE or not).

Questions and Answers about the proposed revisions to the EL Planning Outcome:
- ● Candace- I'm thinking about consistency across the outcomes. Given that MWEE is an indicator for the Student Outcome, it would be good to add MWEE to the District Planning outcome. "Environmental literacy" is broad. MWEEs are one approach to EL.
    - ○ Jessica- There are several components that go into the not prepared to well-prepared planning score that are focused on having systemic MWEEs (currently). The planning score includes preparedness to deliver MWEEs but will not track delivering the MWEEs themselves. For example, do you have the structures in place to deliver MWEEs (e.g., do you have partnerships in place?).
    - ○ Examples of things asked in the ELIT:

- ■ Environmental education is infused into appropriate disciplinary areas within the curriculum.
    - ■ A documented plan to ensure opportunities for all students to engage in meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs) at the elementary, middle and high school levels
    - ■ Established community partnerships for delivery of environmental education, including implementation of MWEEs
- ● Coreen- Is there any opportunity to include climate language?
    - ○ In the indicators for this one, we could consider Climate Action Plans as an indicator of preparedness in the way that environmental literacy and sustainable schools plans/certifications will be indicators.
    - ○ Bart- Regarding the Climate question - DE has been tracking this via an additional question that is part of ELIT data collection: https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/Chesapeake-ELIT-2022-Delaware.pdf
- ● Chris – For clarification on the measurable part of this, will the state target percentage be different for each of the bay jurisdictions? Or will there be a bay-wide target, but then PA for example would have its own specific target?
    - ○ We could find a way to document different targets for each state, but those separate targets would not each be included in the updated outcome language. Or we could come up with a state target that's comfortable for all states.
- ● Frank - The word "reporting" makes all the difference for WV because that makes it voluntary and then WV can work with that. If you take "reporting" out that will make it more iffy in WV.
- ● Tom - Looking at the indicators under this one, the combination of ELIT and sustainable schools under the second indicator feels like it's going to be hard for people to know what that means/ what to focus on, because it's sort of mixed metrics. I would mind seeing sustainable schools certifications as an indicator, but then the other one should be more focused on EL planning.
- ● Tom - I know we talked at the NAT about how it would be helpful to have an interim goal since 2035 is so far away. Are midterm milestones still on the table?
    - ○ Shannon - Interims are not typically included in outcome language, but as we discuss our indicators we could certainly set midterm checkpoints.
- ● Tammie- in PA we've been struggling to get many districts to report. Are there other mechanisms or data that we could use to supplement if we can't get the ELIT data? For example, if we get schools to complete an EL plan, whether they participate in our state green ribbon program or in Eco-Schools.
    - ○ Shannon - This is great for our indicator discussion where we can dig into how we can make these revisions practically work.

10:30 Outcome Indicators Breakouts – Discussion about proposed external indicators to track progress towards the new draft outcomes.
- ● ELIT "What We Have Seen So Far" – Jessica Sickler
- ● Breakout Notes – Student Experiences + District Planning

Comments, Questions and Answers:
- Candace - Perhaps we could increase the number of school divisions that complete the ELIT by mobilizing our regional networks to help the divisions fill out the tool.
- Do we have any data on how many districts repeatedly fill out the ELIT? → Yes
- Do we know about what districts' understanding of what a MWEE is?
  - In the ELIT, the definition of the MWEE and the essential elements are laid out. We are relying on the districts to report as best they can.
  - Also, there is a section where districts can write in/ describe their systemic MWEE so there can be some data validation there by comparing responses to the descriptions.
- What factors are driving the high MWEE rate for MD?
  - Zachary- There's not one answer. We kicked off Outdoor Learning Partnership this past year. In doing that we tried to contextualize that partnership with long history of EL in MD. We have a very fortunate partner landscape with a lot of support for EL. Other states also have many more districts than MD which must be a challenge from a staff leadership perspective (MD has 24 districts and each one has an EL lead).

11:40 State and Regional Capacity Building Updates – If you have updates that are relevant to the Education Workgroup membership (i.e. state policies, standards, frameworks, state-to-district communications/training, etc.) please add a brief update to the table below.

State / Jurisdiction	State or Regional Capacity Building Update
Regional	Environmental Literacy Forum – postponed to 2/25-2/26 with a Virtual Recap on March 21, 9AM-12PM. [Registration for the virtual recap is open](#)
VA	ELIT Plan is on track for being released for the 25/26 school year; it will be open for public comment later this spring.
VA	iseeVA, phase 1 to go live next month! - mapping resource - should be out in February
PA	The STEELS standards are to be in full implementation mode by the end of this academic year (i.e., they ARE the standards in the 2025-26 school year). The PA ELit Network steering committee meets monthly; Regional Hub Leads meet monthly; PA's 6 Regional Hubs meet on a schedule that works for their hub (mostly monthly, but one on an equinox/solstice schedule); PA Gateway to Green website (PA ELit's website) now includes an [Events](#) page which lists upcoming MWEE and environmental literacy and sustainability (EL&S) PD opportunities. PA Gateway to Green - a work in progress https://pagatewaytogreen.org/

WV OLNI	WV OLNI is on track to provide MWEE to 100% of 4th graders in the Eastern Panhandle (Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan counties). We are working to expand outreach to middle and high school students.

12:00 Adjourn

Education Outcomes Progress Summaries:

https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities#environmental-literacy