



**Environmental Literacy Planning:** Each participating Bay jurisdiction will develop a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy for all graduates in the region that should include policies, practices and voluntary metrics that measure the outcomes and goal of this Agreement.

**Sustainable Schools:** Continually increase the number of schools in the region that reduce the watershed, environmental and human health impact of their buildings and grounds through best practices, including student-led protection and restoration projects.

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

### Why is this outcome important?

Despite significant accomplishments, challenges to maintaining and restoring a healthy Bay ecosystem persist. As environmental decisions become more complex and widespread—an environmental protection and restoration strategy built solely on the ability of trained environmental management experts cannot succeed. Like any other successful long-term strategy, natural resource management must be built on the collective wisdom of all citizens, gained through targeted education.

### Current Conditions:

The Chesapeake Bay Program is piloting a tool to support the collection of data towards shared environmental literacy metrics. The tool was developed by a professional evaluator in consultation with state departments of education. In addition, all states have programs designed to improve sustainability efforts at schools. The Chesapeake Bay Program is managing an effort to coordinate, support, and strengthen these efforts.



### How was the outcome derived? Who came up with it?

The Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy, released by the Education Workgroup in June 2012, outlined how the federal government should support state efforts to advance environmental literacy. The priorities identified in the strategy provide the basis for the goals and outcomes proposed for the new agreement and intentionally build on the Chesapeake Bay Program's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) commitment

### What was the basis or baseline?

The Workgroup is in the process of piloting a new set of voluntary metrics to track progress towards the new goals and outcomes. A full baseline is expected for the 2014-2015 school year, but because of the voluntary nature of the metrics will be limited to those local education agencies who respond.

### For More:

[www.chesapeakebay.net/publications/title/mid-atlantic-elementary-and-secondary-environmental-literacy-strategy](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/publications/title/mid-atlantic-elementary-and-secondary-environmental-literacy-strategy)

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/education>