

OUTCOME: Continually increase students' age-appropriate understanding of the watershed through participation in teacher-supported, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) and rigorous, inquiry-based instruction, with a target of at least one meaningful watershed educational experience in each grade band—elementary, middle and high school—depending on available resources.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The [Student Outcome](#) is uncertain. The indicator for this outcome seeks to increase the number of systemic student MWEEs in each elementary, middle and high school as indicated through the [Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool](#) (ELIT). The rate of system-wide MWEE availability for elementary and middle school grades has shown little change since 2015. This is due, in part, to an increased understanding by school districts of the rigor of MWEEs. For high school, the indicator has increased very slightly since 2015. The 2021 ELIT was delayed due to COVID-19 considerations and it is very likely that the results will show a decline because of school districts shifting their priorities due to the pandemic response and recovery.

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 Student Outcome in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The Education Workgroup coordinates with school districts and state agencies to provide the needed resources and training, as well as measure each school's level of preparedness to meet Student MWEE goals.

BASELINE: In 2015, system-wide availability of MWEEs was at 15% in elementary schools, 18% in middle schools and 13% in high schools.

DATA SOURCE: Data for this outcome is self-reported through the ELIT, which is administered biennially to all school districts in six of the seven watershed jurisdictions: the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.