Environmental Education in Maryland Public Schools

Environmental Education integrates all disciplines: reading, writing, science, mathematics, health, fine arts, and social studies; combines independent and collaborative learning; emphasizes authentic problem solving; provides content and context for teaching and learning; requires students to utilize critical thinking skills; and encourages civic responsibility.

“Science and environmental education play a central role in providing children with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the jobs of the future.”

~ U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan

Environmental Literacy Standards

Maryland’s Environmental Literacy Standards are infused within multiple disciplines, preK-12. Each local school system has an environmental literacy team in place to facilitate the implementation of their program.

Partnerships

Numerous organizations and State and Federal agencies support Maryland’s environmental literacy efforts through environmental education programs for students and professional development for educators.

http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/cin/partners/index.asp
http://www.baybackpack.com
http://www.maeoe.org/
http://www.cbtrust.org/
http://eelink.net/pages/Teachers
An **Environmentally Literate Person** is someone who individually and together with others:

- makes informed decisions concerning the environment;
- is willing to act on these decisions to improve the well being of other individuals, societies, and the global environment; and,
- participates in civic life.

The eight Environmental Literacy Standards and associated resources can be found at [http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/programs/environment](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/programs/environment).

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**Green Ribbon Schools Award**

The U.S. Department of Education named four Maryland schools winners of the inaugural Green Ribbon Schools Award: Dunloggin Middle School (Howard County Public Schools), Folger McKinsey Elementary School (Anne Arundel County Public Schools), Francis Scott Key Middle School (Montgomery County Public Schools), and the Lucy School (nonpublic, Frederick County). Seventy-eight schools from 29 states and the District of Columbia received the honors.

Federal officials launched the award to recognize schools that save energy, reduce costs, feature environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protect health, foster wellness, and offer environmental education to boost academic achievement and community engagement.

MSDE has agreed to participate in the program during the 2012-2013 school year. Information about the program can be found at: [http://MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/programs/environment/grs](http://MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/programs/environment/grs).