

From: [Mike R.](#)
To: [ED, State Board of Ed](#)
Subject: [External] Pennsylvania Science Standards
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Dear Director Molchanow-

I'm writing today regarding PDE's decision to omit Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture from the new standards. In an effort to try and put words to paper, I am at a loss because I simply cannot overstate how this decision even came about. More than ever, we need students to understand their connection to the natural world. We need them to understand how their food is grown and how humans influence the environment, and how the natural world works. I have a master's degree in biology, environmental science, and ecology. This should not be happening in a world where students have never been more disconnected from the place in which makes their life possible.

I'll close by saying that PDE is supposed to be a leader for our public schools. PDE should be providing the tools to make school better by 1) providing solid curriculum standards, and 2) by providing proven, science-based curriculum to districts for their use. Far too often I see school districts chasing the next shiny trend rather than following the science. Rarely does any of this happen because PDE is nothing more than a compliance checker and data collector, and it is hard work. Frankly, I'm not surprised by this decision, but I am certainly ashamed.

It's time for PDE to reflect on its role in public education by becoming a national leader in curriculum and public school support. Please reconsider these updated standards and consult with someone who knows what they are doing!

Thank you
Mike Redding