



Jones, Stephanie

From: Sr. Pat Lupo <plupo@neighborhoodarthouse.org>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 10:48 AM
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: [External] Environmental Education Standards Review

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Karen Molchanow
PA State Board of Education

Dear Ms. Molchanow.

I am currently teaching in an Afterschool and Summer Program at the Inner City Neighborhood Art House. I integrate art, environmental awareness and concepts, and environmental action and the care of our resources and others each day with kids between the ages of 8 and 16. I taught for over 40 years at the elementary, middle and high school levels, as well as a few courses at the college level.

I was also very active in the writing of both the Science and Environment and Ecology Standards over the years.

I assure you that environmental education is very important not only to our youth but also to our communities. Our youth must have experience in solving problems and caring for the environment if we want to survive. In the midst of a world where youth are crying out for ways that they can make a difference, I believe that we are obligated to give them the tools they need to address the problems in their neighborhoods today and in the world in the future. You must continue to support the concept knowledge base in the Environment and Ecology Standards that provides students the foundation they need to lead their school and community in addressing current issues.

These students become the Stewards of our Communities; they are Citizen Scientists. They motivate peers and adults to change their behavior. They are agents of change in our communities. We must continue to prepare them for the challenges they will face in the future; they must know how the natural world works and how humans impact it.

You must include the Environment, Ecology and Agriculture in the Revised Standards and continue Pennsylvania's leadership in Environmental Education.

Thank you, Pat Lupo, OSB

Pat Lupo, OSB
Benedictine Sisters
plupo@neighborhoodarthouse.org
814-490-3108

The Earth is calling...are we listening