



From: [Jen Schnakenberg](#)
To: [ED, State Board of Ed](#)
Subject: [External] Comment on Proposed Standards in Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology
Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 11:52:20 AM

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Dear Ms. Molchanow,

I was so heartened to learn that Pennsylvania's state standards in Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology were being revised and brought up to date. However, based on the draft standards shared on the PA Department of Education website, I have grave concerns about the proposed Integrated Standards for Science, Environment and Ecology for grades 6-12. In integrating standards for environment and ecology into the science and technology standards, many topics of critical importance to students, the commonwealth, and our shared earth have been lost.

Specifically, the proposed standards do not include Environment, Ecology and Agriculture as performance expectations. These topics were previously independent state standards that teachers were required to cover. Please restore Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture as a separate, fifth domain under the new proposed standards.. Within this fifth domain, I urge you to restore connections to such key environmental topics as Watersheds and Wetlands (so critical to our commonwealth's water resources), Renewable Resources (to prepare our students for a new sustainable economy), and Humans and the Environment (necessary to understand our role in a changing world) should be included as individual performance expectations. These content areas are necessary for creating informed and science-literate Pennsylvanians who understand the environmental challenges facing our commonwealth now and in the future.

Pennsylvania was once a leader in environment and ecology standards. The proposed integrate science standards do not measure up – to other states' guidelines or to the standards Pennsylvania has upheld in the past. The new standards for Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology must include a fifth, separate domain for Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture to prepare our students for the future..

Thank you for supporting science learning for all Pennsylvania students.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Schnakenberg

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