



Jones, Stephanie

From: Groshek, Jody <JdGroshek@mckeancountypa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 2:49 PM
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: PA Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture Standards

Karen Molchanow
State Board of Education
333 Market Street
1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Karen,
Good afternoon.

I want to express my support for KEEPING the current PA Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture Standards independent of Science Standards. I strongly oppose integrating them into PA Science Standards.

Students across Pennsylvania gain valuable knowledge about our environment, ecosystems, and their role in the future of the natural world because these standards are in place. With this omission, teachers will not be accountable for, nor have time for, these crucial environmental topics. Environmental education is important to sustain a healthy environment for humans in the future. A lack of understanding or appreciation of core environmental subjects will lead to the demise of communities through pollution, unchecked stormwater, flooding, degradation of forests and other natural ecosystems, and poor air quality. State agencies and communities across the state have made great strides to improve these issues. Knowledge gained by the next generation of citizens is key to continue to protect the environment.

As an informal educator, I (as a Conservation District staff member) work closely with local school districts to provide a number of programs tied to the Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture standards. These concepts bring real world environmental problems to students as they expand their knowledge and teachers gain valuable curriculum support. Conservation Districts, and a large number of other environmental educators in every corner of PA provide such programs. Utilizing these standards allows us to provide high quality programs tied closely to school curriculum; helping schools and teachers provide a well rounded science background to students.

Pennsylvania has long been known as a leader in both environmental education and managing its wealth of natural resources. Natural resource professionals from the beginning of conservation hail from the state. This can continue with the inclusion of the self-standing Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture specific standards.

Thank you for your time.

Jody D. Groshek
Communications & Outreach Director
McKean County Conservation District
17137 Route 6
Smethport, PA 16749
814-887-4017
jdgroshek@mckeancountypa.org
www.mckeanconservation.com