

Jones, Stephanie



From: Sheila Snider <snider_tsd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 9:09 PM
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: [External] concerns

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Hello,

It was recently brought to my attention that there is indecision about establishing standards for environment, ecology, and agriculture standards for K-12 students in Pennsylvania.

I believe that these three topics [Environment, Ecology and Agriculture] are critical to ensure that Pennsylvania students are informed citizens and are prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century economy.

Knowing that we are in a global climate crisis and national uncertainty regarding the environment, it is urgent that we as educators of current and future generations of national and global citizens take action to ensure that our students young and old, in formal and non-formal settings, are prepared for what lies ahead.

I am a retired elementary teacher. As I was teaching over my 34 years I witnessed less and less time being dedicated to Science instruction. It is sad that we have forgotten that teaching non-fiction text skills and strategies can be done while simultaneously learning Science content. Learning about the world around us and knowing how to be caretakers of the Earth is essential to our survival.

I currently serve as the director of an environmental center. I meet with many students at many different grade levels, as well as adults from all walks of life. It is very obvious to me that many have little understanding of ecology, the environment and our connection to it, and our role in taking care of water, soil, and wildlife. Like many in my generation, growing up on a farm, I believe that it was natural that we grew up with a better understanding. Children today do not have the same experiences, so I believe that it is important that the instruction happens. Obviously if the standards are not set, the instruction will not occur nor will the evaluation of whether the students have mastered the content.

Sincerely,

Sheila Snider