

**From:** [A. Taylor](#)  
**To:** [ED. State Board of Ed](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Re: The Importance of Environmental Education | Let Your Voice Be Heard  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 2:33:35 PM

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Greetings, I have some comments/suggestions for the text of the drafted PA Bulletin Academic Standards and Assessments. My added text suggestions are in CAPITAL.

- Every student is capable of SEVERAL ASPECTS OF science, engineering, technological and environmental literacy.
- Science, engineering, technology, environment and ecology should be explored through A VARIETY OF integrated and active learning processes
- Suggestion re. use of the terms Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology in the Bulletin. Throughout the document, when using these terms together, keep them in the same order as the STEM acronym.
- If the difference between the terms "ecology" and "environment" is not explained somewhere in the bulletin, this difference detail needs to be added. It should also be noted why the use of both terms as distinct from each other, and from "science", is appropriate and beneficial

Thank you,  
Alani Taylor

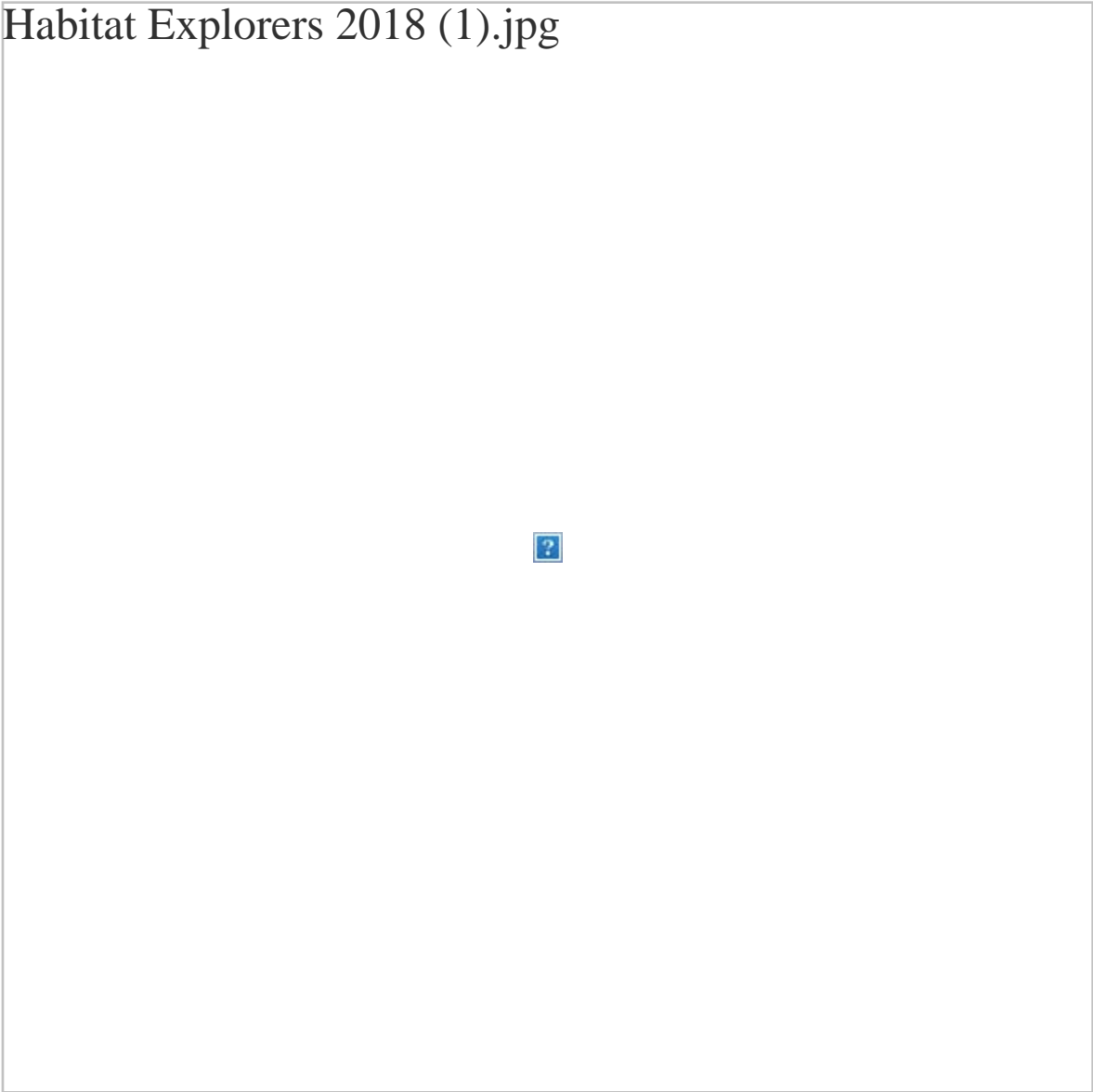
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**From:** Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy <[awenk@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:awenk@pittsburghparks.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:00 AM  
**To:** Alani Taylor <[miquela26@hotmail.com](mailto:miquela26@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** The Importance of Environmental Education | Let Your Voice Be Heard

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy



Habitat Explorers 2018 (1).jpg



## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.**

At the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, we believe in the importance of environmental education. Our team of dedicated and passionate educators understand how critical it is for students to have exposure to environmental education from a young age.

Environmental education can help students learn about the importance of nature and develop skills that will last them a lifetime. Studies show that students who are exposed to environmental education result in a wide array of benefits such as increased confidence, academic performance, knowledge, perseverance, analytical skills, independence, teamwork, and leadership.

The Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology and Science and Technology is currently undergoing a revision process. Now is the opportunity to make changes for the better to ensure the requisite knowledge, performance expectations, and core ideas that build environmental literacy remain strong and continue to place Pennsylvania's Environment and Ecology Standards at the forefront.

Unfortunately, the newly proposed standards do not support opportunities for children to learn about local environmental and agricultural issues through real-world investigations or the cross-disciplinary nature of environmental education that support 21st-century critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, sustainability and climate change are not explicitly addressed at all grade levels to support greater student understanding, which are critical issues for our city and our world.

The public comment period is now open and will remain open for 30 days. This is your chance to have your voice heard about the change in standards and why environmental education is needed.

Comments on the proposed rulemaking may be submitted to the State Board of Education in writing at [ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov](mailto:ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov) or State Board of Education, 333 Market Street, 1st Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126.

The June 5, 2021 issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* containing language of the Board's proposed amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 and background on the proposal can be found here: [Pennsylvania Bulletin \(pacodeandbulletin.gov\)](#)

Additional information related to the proposal can be found on the Department of Education's website here: [Science Standards \(pa.gov\)](#).



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