

**From:** [Aleks Kosowicz](#)  
**To:** [ED, State Board of Ed](#)  
**Subject:** [External] We MUST Teach Environment & Ecology  
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Executive Director Karen Molchanow,

We are running out of time to take meaningful action toward maintaining a habitable climate for life on Earth, and we simply MUST increase awareness. The best way to do this, of course, is to ensure that our natural world has a serious presence in our schools' standardized curriculum. As a concerned citizen, I want to thank you for your role in revising the Pennsylvania Science, Technology, and Environment and Ecology standards. I am alarmed at the lack of certain materials in the proposed Integrated Standards for Science, Environment and Ecology in grades 6-12 and how it may leave Pennsylvania students at a disadvantage in the future.

The standards as proposed leave out critical topics, namely Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture, as part of its performance expectations. For years, teachers have been required to teach these subjects through clear requisites in past independent state standards. To ensure they continue to receive the attention they need and deserve, they must be included in the proposed integrated standards for secondary level education as a separate, fifth domain. Watershed and wetlands, agriculture and society, and integrated pest management should also be covered through individual performance expectations.

Climate and environmental literacy is and will be an essential skill to prepare Pennsylvania students to actively participate in a green economy and remain competitive in the workforce as it continues to evolve. Without them, there is a strong chance they will be left behind.

I ask you again to please include Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture as a fifth, separate domain in the proposed standards to ensure they receive the attention they need and deserve and ensure Pennsylvania students have the necessary skillset to succeed in the workforce.

Thank you for your work setting up the Commonwealth with a bright and green future.

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