



From: [Rebecca L. Lawrence](#)
To: [ED, State Board of Ed](#)
Subject: [External] comments regarding changes in PA Science Standards
Date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 2:29:10 PM

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Dear Ms. Molchanow,

As new proposed science standards do not explicitly address the past areas under the areas of Environment, Ecology and Agriculture, we are concerned that crucial content knowledge and skills will be missed at the secondary level.

Our public and private school field trip, homeschooling, and family programs we offer at Hershey Gardens, not to mention our daily visitor experience, frequently address areas that will no longer be considered to have connections to the proposed standards. The following content areas in our programs but not limited to, would be impacted with the pending changes to standards:

Agriculture and Society
Integrated pest management (IPM)
Ecosystems and Interactions
Threatened, endangered and extinct species management
and Environmental health- biological diversity.

I would also invite you to consider that the change in these areas impact economic value, not solely as revenue generated by field trips and programs but also an impact on the workforce. We use the practice of Integrated Pest Management on a daily basis to maintain and control pests inside our Butterfly Atrium habitat in the Milton and Catherine Hershey Conservatory. We look for prospective employees, including high school age students and undergraduate students that have interests in IPM and general knowledge of IPM. They can explain the concepts of IPM to the general visitor when they see our QR tags and ask questions about how we manage pests in our indoor tropical environment, not to mention plant health.

Additionally, we are concerned that the proposed standards do not address the following NAAEE (North American Association of Environmental Educators) guidelines:

Human Systems
Decision Making and Action Skills
Personal and Civic Responsibility.

As we teach and offer opportunities in citizen science and encourage critical thinking skills, we are greatly concerned about the elimination of teaching about these guidelines as we are, each of us, part of a democracy that functions on them.

If you need additional information or for further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly,

Thank you for the opportunity to receive public comments on the changes to the PA Science Standards.

Rebecca

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The M.S. Hershey Foundation exists to preserve and enhance Milton Hershey's legacy and community vision and to provide education and cultural enrichment to residents and visitors of Hershey, PA.

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