

RECEIVED

JUN 30 REC'D

**PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

Janet Fassbender
1811 Brooks Road
West Chester, PA 19382
June 19, 2021



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

Dear Ms. Molchanow,

I am submitting comments regarding the review of the Pennsylvania Science, Technology and Environment / Ecology Standards.

I am an Environmental Scientist and a Pennsylvania Master Naturalist, and I have concerns about the proposed Integrated Standards for Science, Environment and Ecology at the secondary level (grades 6-9) and how they will impact current and future students in our state. The proposed standards do not explicitly include Environment and Ecology as performance standards for grades 6-12. Secondary students must understand the importance of:

- Watersheds and wetlands
- Biological diversity for environmental health
- The relationship of humans to the environment
- How ecosystems function and change over time
- And the proper management of threatened and endangered species.

Furthermore, the proposed standards should include expectations for forming and evaluating views and the need for action, planning and acting, and evaluating results. The performance standards should also include personal and civic responsibility expectations.

Our secondary students today are tomorrow's leaders and decision-makers for Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's future environmental health, citizen well-being, and economic vitality depend on the knowledge available to our students now and for years to come.

Please ensure that Environment and Ecology standards are not lost. I urge you to create a fifth, separate domain for these content topics, ensuring that these vital subjects are not ignored and that Pennsylvania students have the tools and knowledge necessary for success. Thank you for supporting these vitally important learning standards for students across Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Janet Fassbender
Janet Fassbender