

From: [Juli Frenton](#)
To: [ED, State Board of Ed](#)
Subject: [External] Give Environment & Ecology Attention in the Classroom!
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Executive Director Karen Molchanow,

I have been meditating, alot, recently regarding the mess "we" have made in the world. Our air is poisoned, our water is poisoned our earth and the natural systems are quite literally on the edge of an ecological collapse and I wonder how did we let it get so far out of hand? I believe we have become so separated from nature that the few very rich have dominated through greed to dictate the course of human affairs at the expense of nature. To change or alter any outcome there must be input at a given point, the theory of initial dependence or the theory of change. We need no longer to participate in debates over the viability of various solutions. To mature with a respect for nature and the homeostatic systems in nature we need to be indoctrinated starting at a young age and throughout our lifetime to make this possible. There is no classroom anywhere that can not make use of visual material to supplement the actual cause and effect of disregarding those natural systems. And if your thinking 'yes, there are remote regions...' then I tell you no, they are the people living in harmony with nature and see first hand what "progress" has done long before others have. To remain in balance we must have balanced thinkers...

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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