



**From:** [Lynnette Saunders](#)  
**To:** [ED, State Board of Ed](#)  
**Subject:** [External] proposed integrated science standards  
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Dear Karen Molchanow,

I am very concerned about the proposed new integrated PA standards for Science, Environment, and Ecology. It seems that, at the secondary level, there are virtually no standards for Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture. I just can't make sense of this since we are facing a climate crisis and since Pennsylvania has a significant amount of agriculture. Every student needs to understand how their food is produced as well as the potential environmental impacts of producing it. A basic understanding of ecology is necessary to realize the huge impacts the climate crisis is having on ecosystems and the organisms, including humans that depend on them.

As a person who has spent a lot of time studying watersheds and streams, as well as volunteering to monitor, restore, and protect them, I know how vital it is that our students know how the daily actions they take can affect these systems. Flooding from rain events is now common in many townships, including my own. Our students need to understand what causes this flooding and how it can be remediated. They would learn this in the old environmental standards.

It is paramount that specific standards for Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture be restored to the state standards. Without specific standards districts and teachers will not be required or held accountable for teaching these important topics.

I implore you to add a fifth domain for grades 6-12 that include Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture. Individual performance expectations must include Watershed and Wetlands cycles, roles, physical factors, characteristics, functions, and impacts to them. The uses and impacts of Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources should also be included. Ecosystems and their Interactions must include how they change over time. Management strategies for Threatened and Endangered Species need to be included. Environmental Laws and Regulations need to be included along with their effects. Humans and the Environment must include society needs, sustainability, as well as supply and demand. Agriculture and Society needs to be included with society needs related to agriculture, as well as agricultural science, systems, and technology. Ideally, the standards would also include individual performance expectations for understanding political and economic systems, decision making and action skills, and accepting personal responsibility.

I simply do not understand why the proposed integrated secondary standards would leave out so much of our current standards. This is a huge step backwards and would leave our students unprepared to help solve our state and national issues as they step into their adult roles.

I implore you to add a fifth domain for grades 6-12 that includes Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture and the associated individual performance expectations. Please don't take Pennsylvania education backwards. Maintain the Environment, Ecology, and Agriculture standards.  
Thank you, Lynnette Saunders