

# Environmental Literacy for Illinois

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# Conservation Congress

## Youth Recruitment and Retention

### Recommendation #1

- Update and adopt the Environmental Literacy for Illinois (EL for IL) strategic plan to encompass non-formal educators and include more outdoor components.

# History of the EL for IL

- Master plan for environmental education
- First developed in 1995
- Updated every 5 years

# Who wrote it?

## Dept of Natural Resources, Co - Chair

Active Transportation Alliance  
Amboy Central Elementary School  
Champaign School District  
Chicago Botanic Gardens  
Chicago Metro Association for the Education of  
Young Children  
Chicago Public School for Environmental  
Outreach  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago Wilderness  
Dept of Agriculture  
Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
DuQuoin High School  
DuPage Forest Preserve  
Environmental Education Association of Illinois  
Governor's Office  
Heartland Community College

## State Board of Education, Co - Chair

Illinois College  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Science Teachers Association  
Illinois State Museum  
Lake County Forest Preserves  
Morton Arboretum  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Northern Illinois University  
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum  
Pekin High School  
Red Hill High School  
Riverton High School  
New Trier High School  
Triad High School  
Urbana Park District  
Will County Forest Preserve

# What's New?

- Implementation Approach
- Sustainability
- Non-Formal Education
- Non-Formal Educator Professional Development
- Early Learning
- Grants and Long-term Funding

# Partners

- Governor Pat Quinn
- Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
- IL Dept of Agriculture
- IL Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- IL Dept of Natural Resources
- IL Environmental Protection Agency
- IL State Board of Education
- US Army Corps of Engineers – River Project Office and Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake
- Active Transportation Alliance
- Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children
- Chicago Wilderness
- Environmental Education Association of Illinois
- Eden Place Nature Center
- Illinois Science Teachers Association
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Nature's Classroom
- Northern Illinois University
- Chicago Astronomical Society
- Salt Creek Greenway Association



# Plan Sustainability

- Promote the Plan
- Pursue funding for the Plan
- Encourage networking among organizations that implement the Plan

# Evaluation

- Work with schools and non-formal programs
- Provide a forum for partners



# Grants and Long-term Funding

- Identify potential grants
- Disseminate information about potential
- Encourage cooperative grants between partners
- Offer grant-writing professional development for partners

# Environmental Learning Sites and Centers

- Recognize learning centers that focus on environmental education and grant CPDUs
- Use the learning centers to provide networking opportunities for educators
- Promote the learning centers
- Recruit new learning centers

# Electronic Information Resources

- Incorporate environmental literacy into the State's proposed Learning and Performance Management System
- Incorporate environmental education in the STEM Learning Exchange
- Provide environmental education materials and resources online

# Preservice Teacher Education

- Provide resources to universities and colleges to help them incorporate environmental literacy into their programs
- Encourage environmental literacy training for non-science majors
- Survey the status of environmental courses and components

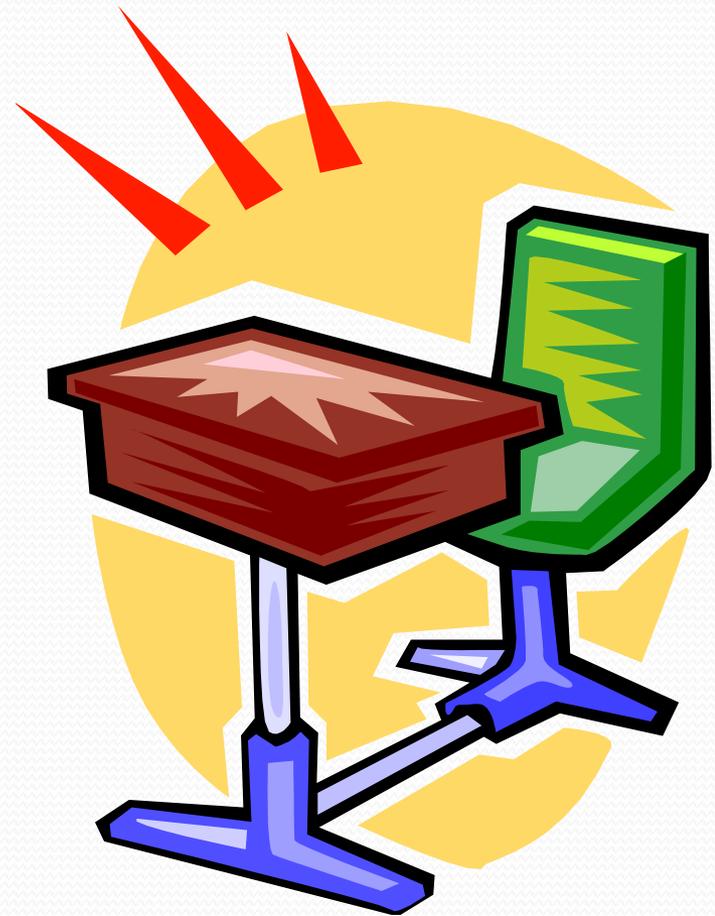
# Inservice Teacher Education



- Review, create and support teacher education programs that focus on environmental literacy
- Focus on educating teachers in underserved communities and non-science teachers

# Integration

- Evaluate current environmental literacy resources to determine needs and emerging concepts



# Early Childhood

- Develop a better understanding of how to integrate environmental literacy into homes and care facilities.
- Develop and disseminate environmental education materials to families and providers





# Non-formal Education

- Promote awareness of non-formal opportunities and programs
- Incorporate non-formal organizations into STEM learning exchanges
- Promote funding and support partnerships between formal and non-formal educators

# Professional Development for non-formal educators

- Promote professional development opportunities for non-formal educators
- Establish an accreditation and oversight program for non-formal educators
- Help non-formal educators target their materials for classroom learning

# Quality of Life



- Encourage sustainable school infrastructure
- Educate students on active and healthy lifestyles for students

# Careers

- Disseminate information about environmental careers to K-12 schools
- Promote career partnerships with schools



# Get Involved

- Sign up as a partner!





# Contact information

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