

Case Study: Environmental Literacy California



Overview

California integrated environmental literacy into K-12 schools through the creation of [Environmental Principles and Concepts](#) (EP&Cs) to complement California's content standards and required the development of a [model curriculum](#). A [subsequent bill](#) codified the EP&Cs along with encouraging school districts to promote instruction in environmental literacy, and directed the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide leadership to further the goals of environmental literacy.

Bill: [AB 1548](#) (Pavley, 2003); [SB 720](#) (Allen, 2018)

Target Audience

California's 6.2 million K–12 public school students.

Coalition

Efforts were supported by a coalition of over 100 organizations, including education and environmental non-profits, museums and cultural institutions, school districts, and county offices of education. Key supporters include [Heal the Bay](#) (AB 1548), [Ten Strands](#) and the [California Environmental Literacy Initiative](#) (SB 720).

Funding

A \$10M investment to create the model curriculum and a \$4M one-time budget act in 2017 funded environmental literacy work through county offices of education, provided teacher professional development, and supported statewide Next Generation Science Standards framework and environmental literacy rollouts.

Impact

Since 2010, the EP&Cs have been fully integrated into California's content frameworks and included in criteria for publishers. Almost 25,000 teachers in 4,600 schools across the state have received professional development to use the model curriculum, and over 9.1M student lessons have been distributed free-of-charge to schools.