

Transformative Policies and Funding for Environmental Education



Session Organizers: Jason Morris, Pisces Foundation; Sarah Bodor, NAAEE, Anupama Joshi, Blue Sky Funders Forum

10:40 am - 11:30 am

Session Padlet: <https://ncboestc.padlet.org/estcworkshops2/n81xclfn57ka1t4s>

States across the nation are creating systemic change in their schools by embracing environmental and outdoor learning as a necessary and fundamental student right. This session will explore some of the best state and federal level policy and funding examples from around the country making an impact. Session leaders will lead an engaging and interactive session drawing on past, current, and potential future opportunities to expand equitable outdoor access, engagement, and educational opportunities.

Discussion Questions

- How can these examples inform your state efforts?
- How do we ensure that this is done equitably both within districts and across the state?
- How can we meaningfully advance this work using existing COVID-19 Economic Relief funding, and the potential for additional funding for pandemic recovery, infrastructure, and/or climate change efforts?

Three Things You Must Know:

- There is an historic influx in federal funding to LEAs that can be used with great flexibility over the next 3 years.
- Incorporating outdoor and environmental learning into LEA plans for reopening schools can help address inequities, provide healthier learning environments, reverse learning loss, and support social emotional learning.

Background & Key Resources

- Fact Sheet: [Using ESSER Funds to Support Outdoor Learning](#)
- [Youth Outdoor Policy Playbook](#)
- [State Farm to School Policy Handbook](#)

Session Speakers

- Jason Morris, Senior Program Officer, Pisces Foundation (jmorris@piscesfoundation.org)
- Sarah Bodor, Director of Policy & Affiliate Relations, NAAEE (sarah@naaee.org)
- Anupama Joshi, Executive Director, Blue Sky Funders Forum (anupama@blueskyfundersforum.org)