**District of Columbia Environmental Literacy Update**

**June, 2019**

**State Working Group Update:** Environmental literacy efforts in the District are led by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). The group works with partners to implement the DC Environmental Literacy Plan, which was finalized in 2017.

**NAAEE Affiliate Update:** The **DC Environmental Education Consortium (DCEEC)** continues to support the work of schools and nonprofits throughout the District. DCEEC hosted an NAAEE Guidelines workshop for participants in DC, MD, and WV, and several participants joined the trainer’s bureau.

**Standards of Learning/Curriculum:** Environmental literacy efforts have been closely aligned with Next Generation Science Standards implementation.

**State Efforts to Support Environmental Literacy**

**I.** Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre and School Gardens Program (OSSE)

**II.** Overnight MWEE for all 5th grade students and pilot middle school MWEE program (DOEE)

**III.** NGSS implementation efforts include engaging with environmental partners for teacher professional development

**Current Challenges**

* Many efforts to support outdoor classrooms but maintenance remains an issue.
* Need partners and strategy to implement MWEE in middle and high school.
* The current amount of funding for the Overnight MWEE can no longer meet the demand for the program.
* Funding for the pilot program to provide bus transportation for general field experiences is no longer available.

**Goals and Opportunities**

* Release of Sustainable DC 2.0, the District’s sustainability plan that includes action items specifically related to environmental literacy implementation.
* Participation in the Cities Connecting Children and Nature Network’s Leadership Academy to explore interagency opportunities to leverage current and future environmental education programming.
* Launch of a state-level healthy/green/sustainable schools recognition program in fall 2019.
* Triennial update of the DC Environmental Literacy Plan to be released in fall 2020.

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