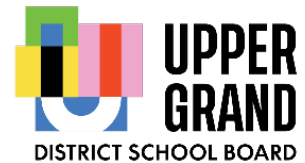


Environmental Education and Management Procedures Manual 210-A



Category: Community Relations
Administered by: Appropriate Superintendent
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1. General

These procedures address the participation of all board employees in practicing and promoting responsible and sound environmental practices within all areas of the board.

2. Definitions

Environmental Education is education about the environment, for the environment and in the environment that promotes an understanding of rich experience in, and an appreciation for the dynamic interactions of:

- the Earth's physical and biological systems
- the dependency of our social and economic systems on these natural systems
- the scientific and human dimensions of environmental issues
- the positive and negative consequences, both intended and unintended, of the interactions between human-created and natural systems

Environmental Management is the development and maintenance of strategies, programs and procedures to model environmental stewardship.

3. Rationale of Environmental Education and Management

The following rationale supports the goals of environmental education and management.

3.1 Teaching and Learning Goal

Environmental education enables students to develop the knowledge and skills they need to be environmentally active and responsible citizens and to apply their knowledge and skills cooperatively to effect long term change.

3.2 Student Engagement and Community Connections

Students must be active participants in shaping their future. Student engagement involves the active participation of all students in sustainable environmental practices, a strong student voice in decision making, and involvement in the school and community in meaningful ways.

3.3 Environmental Management and Leadership

By exercising environmental responsibility in the management of its own operations, the board can serve as a model of corporate citizenship for students and the broader community and ensure coherence with the environmental messages conveyed by the curriculum.

4. Goals of Environmental Education and Management

4.1 Teaching and Learning

Students in all grades and subject areas will acquire knowledge, skills and perspectives that foster understanding of their fundamental connections to each other, to the world around them and to all living things.

4.2 Student Engagement and Community Connections

Promote active student engagement in environmental activities and building links between schools and communities.

4.3 Environmental Management and Leadership

The board will increase the capacity of system leaders to implement evidence-based environmental education, programming, practices and operations. The board will model environmental stewardship by enhancing the integration of environmentally responsible practices into the management of resources, operations and facilities.

5. The Responsibilities of the Board

5.1 In support of the goal of Teaching and Learning, the board will:

- 5.1.1 promote the use of relevant curriculum resource documents to support the implementation of revised curricula, as appropriate
- 5.1.2 support staff and students in linking environmental knowledge and skills and activities to the teachings of diverse communities, including First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples, and to the principles of responsible citizenship
- 5.1.3 foster, in person and on-line collaborative opportunities for educators to develop and share activities, integrated approaches and action research projects related to environmental education,
- 5.1.4 encourage innovative interdisciplinary programs that focus on the environment and include field components
- 5.2 In support of the goal of Student Engagement and Community Connections, the board will:
 - 5.2.1 engage student leaders in the design and delivery of environmental education at the board level
 - 5.2.2 share school and student projects across the board that demonstrate engagement in environmental stewardship
 - 5.2.3 encourage environmental learning for all students inside and outside the classroom
 - 5.2.4 support students, on a system-wide basis, as they develop skills and act as decision makers to effect positive environmental change
 - 5.2.5 offer community-linked experiences and programs such as Specialist High Skills Major focused on the environment, or cooperative education and work experience opportunities that are relevant to environmental education
 - 5.2.6 encourage stakeholders (such as the Parent Involvement Committee) to provide advice on the implementation of environmental education, through, among other means, parent council, and on-line resources

- 5.2.7 share information about local resources that support environmental awareness and protection, energy conservation, waste management, protection of the biosphere, and outdoor education
- 5.2.8 share links and partnerships with community organizations to help extend engagement in and responsibility for environmental education to the broader community
- 5.3 In support of the goal of Environmental Management and Leadership, the board will:
 - 5.3.1 embed the importance of sustainable environmental education and protection into the board's planning processes and operations including the board's strategic plan and operational practices
 - 5.3.2 develop an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan that is annually reviewed, renewed and communicated to all board staff and trustees
 - 5.3.3 review existing district recognition programs for opportunities to include recognition and communication of responsible environmental leadership
 - 5.3.4 integrate in-service opportunities related to environmental education and management into staff development for all employee groups
 - 5.3.5 encourage staff, stakeholders, students and parents/guardians to adopt and promote environmentally appropriate practices
 - 5.3.6 implement programs, procedures strategies and practices to protect and conserve the environment, while ensuring schools and workplace environments are safe and healthy
 - 5.3.7 develop and implement environmentally responsible purchasing practices, while considering quality, price and service
 - 5.3.8 enhance the integration of environmentally responsible practices into the management of resources, operations, facilities and grounds

6. The Responsibilities of Schools

- 6.1 In support of the goal of Teaching and Learning, schools will:
 - 6.1.1 provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and skills related to environmental education in all subject areas, and encourage them to apply their knowledge and skills to environmental issues (e.g., loss of biodiversity, climate change, waste reduction, energy conservation) through action-based projects
 - 6.1.2 challenge students to develop skills in systems thinking and global competencies that they will need to become active and involved citizens
 - 6.1.3 develop learning opportunities that will help students understand the underlying causes, the multiple dimensions and the dynamic nature of environmental issues
 - 6.1.4 share effective practices about pedagogical strategies that support learning and teaching about the environment
- 6.2 In support of the goal of Student Engagement and Community Connections, schools will:
 - 6.2.1 engage student leaders in the design and delivery of environmental education and activities
 - 6.2.2 encourage students to enrich their learning by using information technology to access resources, connect with others, and create e-communities that focus on environmental issues
 - 6.2.3 encourage action research that promotes partnerships and the innovative implementation of environmental education concept and principles
 - 6.2.4 create opportunities for students to address environmental issues in their homes, in their local communities and at the global level
 - 6.2.5 work with school councils in promoting environmental education

- 6.2.6 encourage students to plan environmental education activities for other students
 - 6.2.7 encourage all students to participate in environmental education activities on school grounds
 - 6.2.8 work with parents, the school council, community groups and other education stakeholders to promote environmental awareness and foster appropriate environmentally responsible practices
 - 6.2.9 enrich and complement students' classroom learning by organizing out-of-classroom experiences and activities, (such as the naturalization of the school ground) as appropriate
 - 6.2.10 encourage students to consider ways of completing their community service requirements that involve addressing environmental issues in their communities in a manner consistent with school board policy
- 6.3 In support of the goal of Environmental Management and Leadership, schools will:
- 6.3.1 incorporate measurable environmental education goals into the school improvement plan
 - 6.3.2 adopt environmentally responsible management practices that are consistent with board policy and consider the advice of members of the school community on these matters
 - 6.3.3 encourage staff to develop knowledge and skills related to environmental education and responsible environmental practices and encourage mentoring opportunities
 - 6.3.4 facilitate sharing of staff expertise and knowledge through existing networks
 - 6.3.5 encourage staff to participate in school or board sessions on environmental sustainability and the role of staff in preparing and implementing the school and/or the board's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

6.3.6 plan an environmentally responsible approach to managing
resources and daily operations