

State of Delaware

Children in Nature - Leave No Child Inside Taskforce - Leave No Child Inside

FACT SHEET

THE BACKGROUND

With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), there is a provision called No Child Left Inside (NCLI) with broad and growing support. If it is adopted by Congress, new opportunities will emerge and resources will be available to focus attention on Environmental Education (EE); to foster understanding, analysis, and solutions to the major environmental challenges we face. While mainly addressing environmental education, this legislation also seeks to touch on healthy living programs encouraging outdoor recreation and sound nutrition.

If Congress adopts the NCLI proposals, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will include:

- Funding to train teachers to deliver high quality Environmental Education and utilize the local environment as an extension of the classroom.
- Incentives for states to develop State Environmental Literacy Plans to insure that every student is prepared to understand the environmental challenges of the future.
- Encouragement for teachers, administrators, and school systems to make time and resources available for environmental education for all students.
- Environmental Education will be integrated across core subject areas.

But, as a prerequisite to receiving implementation grants, states will be required to develop environmental literacy plans. The Children in Nature - Leave No Child Inside Task Force is working to see that Delaware is ready to seize this opportunity.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the State of Delaware's Children in Nature - Leave No Child Inside Project is to improve environmental literacy, create opportunities for children to participate in outdoor experiences, promote healthy lifestyles and provide better access to green space through schools and community programs.

OUR VISION

The state of Delaware will be recognized as a leader in progressive environmental education for all of our children. At school and at home, in parks, backyards and other outdoor spaces, children and adults will experience a multitude of ways to improve health, well-being and enhance life-long learning through their encounters with and growing knowledge of the natural world.

No child will grow up without having a positive outdoor experience. All families will have access to green spaces. Our children will reconnect with the natural world in meaningful ways and there will be no child left inside!

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

To create a comprehensive plan with implementable recommendations to the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

OUR DELIVERABLES

- Draft Children in Nature - Leave No Child Inside Executive Order.
- Inventory existing research/data, initiatives, programs, and best practices including public, private, state-wide and national efforts.
- Develop a recommendation report to include measurable goals and performance measures.
- Support the Delaware Department of Education in the development of an Environmental Literacy plan for the State of Delaware as required in the re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Identify potential funding opportunities to implement the recommendation of the report.
- Identify messages and marketing strategies for Children in Nature - Leave No Child Inside (i.e., website, social marketing).

CIN TF PERSONNEL

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COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There are five primary committees and two administrative committees.

Children in Nature - Leave No Child Inside Taskforce - Leave No Child Inside: responsible for conducting overall project management, including the implementation of all deliverables as outlined in the taskforce charter, and formally presenting all committee research and recommendations for final plan.

Delaware 15 Committee: responsible for securing funding and assisting with policy change to facilitate recommended strategies from the final plan.

Students in Nature Committee: responsible for focusing on opportunities to increase environmentally literate students and teachers via the effectiveness of a statewide environmental literacy plan.

Greener Schools Committee: responsible for focusing on opportunities to “green our schools” through creating schoolyard habitats, gardening, and helping to raise awareness in connecting nature to the physical school grounds.

Active Living in Nature Committee: responsible for focusing on opportunities to expand physical activities corresponding with nature and impact fitness, health and nutrition; to increase professional development for teachers and others delivering the curriculum.

Neighborhood Connections Committee: responsible for focusing on opportunities to link open spaces and greenways that connect children with nature throughout our neighborhoods.

Community Outdoor Experiences Committee: responsible for focusing on opportunities for all Delaware citizens to become more environmentally literate and to participate in outdoor programs and service projects which are integrated with a statewide environmental literacy plan.