

Policy - 9115

Green School Initiative Policy

The Board recognizes the importance of implementing a green policy through the following foundation and guiding framework. McCall-Donnelly School District recognizes that all reasonable measures should be taken to promote ecological literacy (see definitions below) which includes an awareness of our dependence on biological processes, an understanding of the consequences of our impact on the biosphere and the realization that the best model for sustainable systems lies in nature's ecosystems. The District also commits to a foundation and guiding framework to attain the District vision of a high performance schools and on a healthy, responsible learning environment.

The District adopts the Precautionary Principle (see definition below) as the preferred method for evaluating alternative choices for achieving the four goals of the Green School Initiative to be implemented through the District Green Committee and each School's Green Team:

TEACH, LEARN, ENGAGE

In order to accomplish district goals the school community shall be educated in principles of ecological literacy as well as integrating the principles into the K-12 curriculum and creating hands-on projects to implement these principles.

HEALTHY SCHOOL GROUNDS, HEALTHY FOOD

The care of our school buildings and grounds will be used as learning tools to promote stewardship, good nutrition, monitoring and gardening skills and eco-design. Periodically, the school food program will be evaluated for the quality of nutrition and efforts will be made to incorporate any programs that include procurement from local producers.

REDUCE RESOURCE AND ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Conservation of energy will be implemented while also considering alternative forms of energy. To realize energy savings, the school community will be trained how to best use our systems and occupy our facilities. The district will encourage the reduction of the use of non-renewable resources in transportation and subsequently reduce discharges of waste into the biosphere.

MINIMIZE TOXINS

The District will implement guidelines for purchase and use of cleaning, construction, and school supplies as well as pest and weed management that minimizes or eliminates any harmful substance. Indoor air quality will be maintained through targeted management of the environmental control systems and products employed in the facilities.

The District encourages the administration, staff, occupants and patrons to:

- Implement cost-effective operating procedures in an effort to reduce waste and energy consumption in our facilities.
- Establish assessment tools that continually measure consumption and waste.
- Make recommendations based on data and desirable outcomes.

Specific responsibilities are as follows:

The District will:

- Encourage the integration of ecological literacy into the K-12 curriculum where appropriate.
- Establish the District Green Committee, responsible to the superintendent, which is comprised of a representative of the school district community
- Establish a Green Team for each school that includes representatives from administration, faculty, custodial and kitchen staff, students, as well as a member of the District Green Committee from that school.
- Develop, with the Maintenance Department, energy conservation procedures that will be communicated to all staff through training and education.

The responsibilities of the District Green Committee are:

- Planning and executing district wide environmental stewardship training days.
- Researching and providing the faculty with examples of ecological literacy curriculum.
- Hosting an annual review meeting with all the Green Teams in the district.
- Supervising in concert with the district curriculum staff member the integration of ecological literacy into the K - 12 curriculums where appropriate.

The responsibilities of each School's Green Teams are:

- Deciding how best to engage the rest of the school in achieving the four goals of the Green School Initiative.
- Providing the district Green Committee with a yearly narrative assessment of progress towards those goals.
- Attending the annual Green School Assessment meeting.
- Overseeing the implementation of environmental stewardship projects within the K – 12 curriculums.

Definitions:

Ecological Literacy: understanding the natural systems that make life on earth possible and the human position within them; the interdependence, cycles, flows, dynamic balances, diversity, nested systems, successions and networks that characterize the organization of the natural world; the use of these principles to

create sustainable human communities; the combination of systems thinking and ecology that recognizes the world as an integrated whole. Ecological literacy is not just mastery of subject matter but the creation of meaningful connections between science, aesthetics, ethics, culture, economics and societal needs.

Precautionary Principle: The proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof that the activity is safe. When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. The Precautionary Principle enhances sound economic analysis since it asks that you assign full value to human health and the environment, take uncertainty into account and describe full costs of potential harm. In sum, faced with reasonable suspicion of harm, the precautionary approach urges an evaluation of available alternatives for the purpose of preventing or minimizing harm. The process shall be open, informed and democratic and shall invite all potentially affected parties.

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