

Case Study: Green Schools Act Maryland



Overview

The Maryland Green Schools Act calls for a significant increase in the number of schools statewide that become certified under the Maryland Green Schools program over six years. It provides grants to support environmental learning and student action projects. Eligible activities including teacher professional development, student transportation to and from outdoor environmental learning experiences, schoolyard habitats, and outdoor classrooms.

Bill: [SB 662](#) and [HB 1366](#); Enacted May 25, 2019

Target Audience

This bill will fund grants to schools for a variety of activities, including outdoor learning experiences for students and related teacher professional development.

Coalition

This bill was supported by a statewide network of formal and nonformal educators, lead by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. maeoe.org

Funding

Beginning in FY2020, the program will provide roughly \$250k per year for six years with a goal of increasing the number of certified green schools statewide to 50%. In total, the bill authorizes \$1.6 million over the six years.

Impact

Grants to individual schools will support teacher professional development, outdoor learning experiences for students, outdoor classrooms, schoolyard habitat, and energy and waste reduction.