



Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

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EEASC Shares Results from Regional Landscape Analysis of K-12 Schools, Teachers, Administrators

Columbia, SC - The Environmental Education Association of SC (EEASC) is sharing results from a landscape analysis conducted this year by the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) using collected survey data from over 600 PreK-12 teachers and administrators in the eight SEEA states.

The analysis is designed to gain an enhanced understanding of environmental education providers and schools in the southeastern U.S. that are working towards similar goals. It provides a comprehensive look at what environmental education is (or is not) happening in schools, a better understanding of the needs and priorities of teachers and administrators, strategies for scaling programs for a broader, more equitable reach and state and regional findings to inform future strategic planning efforts.

The school survey used to gather data focused on integration of environmental education into the curriculum, professional development needs of administrators and educators, field trips, outdoor learning and outdoor spaces

Some key findings from the analysis include:

- When asked how likely teachers are to integrate outdoor learning into their instruction, 32% already incorporate outdoor learning into instruction; 61% indicated interest, but need support; and only 6% say they are not likely to incorporate outdoor learning.
- The top barrier to incorporating outdoor learning in schools is logistics (scheduling, time, distance, staging and clean up).
- The primary limiting factors for schools' ability to participate in field trips were transportation costs, time, availability of transportation and site fees.
- When asked what type of professional development educators have participated in, 21% of educators indicated they have had no professional development in outdoor education or environmental education.
- A total of 66% of educators are teaching about climate science and of those, 50% are spending less than 10 hours per year on this topic. Most educators do not feel confident teaching this topic.

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A full report and a dashboard with detailed findings from the analysis can also be accessed, which allows users to filter the location of the schools, the type of schools, grade level, the level of reported confidence providing EE and more.

“These insights illustrate the current state of environmental education in K-12 schools and show us new opportunities to bring outdoor learning and environmental education into every classroom,” said Keith Willoughby, Executive Director of EEASC. “Our organization’s mission is to support and equip environmental educators to promote environmental stewardship. The findings of this landscape analysis will help us target our efforts in order to have the biggest impact on our community.”

To access detailed findings from the analysis, including the dashboard, visit www.southeastee.org/landscape-schools.

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About the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (EEASC): EEASC is a non-profit professional organization for environmental educators in SC. An affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education, EEASC’s mission is to connect, support, and equip South Carolinians to promote environmental stewardship. Its members include classroom teachers and non-formal educators such as park rangers, recycling coordinators, and extension specialists.

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