

Environmental Education Matters

Colorado is renowned for an environment that is both protected and valued. Colorado students must be prepared to address present and future environmental challenges.



The Benefits of Environmental Education (EE)

Environmental Education (EE) is a life-long learning process that increases an individual's awareness of, relationship with, and dependence on the environment and its systems. Research indicates that students engaged in environmental education experience numerous benefits including:

- Greater pride, ownership and strengthened sense of empowerment to make a difference in their community; ¹
- Better performance in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies; ¹
- Greater sense of relevance and interest in what they learn in school; ¹
- Increased engagement and enthusiasm for learning; ¹
- Increased school attendance. ¹

Make EE a Part of Every Students Education

The Colorado Environmental Education Plan (CEEP) was adopted in 2012 by the Colorado State Board of Education with bi-partisan support and in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, Department of Natural Resources, and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education. The CEEP focuses on developing environmental education infrastructure to provide students with time outdoors, teachers with environmental education, and schools with resources that engage students in mastering the Colorado Academic Standards. The Colorado Environmental Leadership Council (CEELC) is a state-wide, collaborative body that supports the CEEP and overall environmental education efforts. Learn more at: www.cae.org/colorado-environmental-education-plan.



95% of adults and parents support teaching children about the environment. ¹

Did you know?

Kids spend **7 hours a day** in front of an electronic screen, but only **7 minutes a day** in unstructured outdoor play!



On average, children spend **85%** of their time **INDOORS**



Nature helps us learn! Environmental Education Builds:

1 Ownership in the community. ²

2 Empowerment to make a difference. ²

3 Increased school attendance. ²

4 Greater interest in school learning. ²



• 80% of Americans are heavily influenced by incorrect or outdated environmental myths. ¹

• Exposure to environment-based education significantly increases student performance on tests of their critical thinking skills. ²

• Only 10% of teachers have had specific training on environmental education teaching methods. ¹

• Only 12% of Americans can correctly answer a basic quiz on energy! ¹



FITNESS

Outdoor play increases fitness and builds active, healthy bodies.



STRESS

Children's stress levels fall within minutes of seeing green spaces.



COMMUNITY

Nature makes you nicer, enhancing social interactions, value for community and close relationships.



PERFORMANCE

Schools with environmental education programs score higher on standardized tests in math, reading, writing and listening.



1. Coyle, K. (2005). Environmental Literacy in America: What 10 years of NEETF/Roper Research and Related Studies Say about Environmental Literacy in the U.S. Washington, D.C. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation.

2. Lieberman, G.A., & Hoody, L.L. (1998). Closing the Achievement Gap: Using the environment as an integrative context for learning. San Diego, CA: State Education and Environment Roundtable (SEER).