

CHAPTER 126A

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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126A.01 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GOALS AND PLAN.

The environmental education program described in this chapter has these goals for the pupils and other citizens of this state:

(a) Pupils and citizens should be able to apply informed decision-making processes to maintain a sustainable lifestyle. In order to do so, citizens should:

- (1) understand ecological systems;
- (2) understand the cause and effect relationship between human attitudes and behavior and the environment;
- (3) be able to evaluate alternative responses to environmental issues before deciding on alternative courses of action; and
- (4) understand the effects of multiple uses of the environment.

(b) Pupils and citizens shall have access to information and experiences needed to make informed decisions about actions to take on environmental issues.

(c) For purposes of this chapter, "state plan" means "Greenprint for Minnesota: A State Plan for Environmental Education."

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 11 s 3*

126A.02 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Subd. 2. **Board members.** A 17-member environmental education board shall advise the commissioner of children, families, and learning. The board is made up of the commissioners of the department of natural resources; the pollution control agency; the department of agriculture; the department of children, families, and learning; the director of the office of strategic and long-range planning; the chair of the board of water and soil resources; the executive director of the higher education services office; the executive secretary of the board of teaching; the director of the extension service; and eight citizen members representing diverse interests appointed by the governor. The governor shall appoint one citizen member from each congressional district. The citizen members are subject to section 15.0575. Two of the citizen members appointed by the governor must be licensed teachers currently teaching in the K-12 system. The governor shall annually designate a member to serve as chair for the next year.

History: *1995 c 212 art 3 s 59; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 11 s 4; art 16 s 13*

126A.04 POWERS AND DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Planning.** The director may develop a plan and establish a continuing planning process to achieve the goals for environmental education. The director may integrate the environmental education plans, strategies, and policies developed by the department of children, families, and learning and post-secondary institutions when developing their planning process and plan.

Subd. 2. **Legislation.** The director may review proposed legislation and funding requests relating to informal environmental education for consistency with the plan. The director shall also develop with the department of children, families, and learning and post-secondary institutions a process for coordinating the development of K-12 and post-secondary environmental education legislation and funding requests with the plan.

[For text of subs 3 to 5, see M.S.1994]

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13

126A.07 RELATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND LEARNING.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]

Subd. 2. **List.** The cooperation and support must include, but is not limited to, the items mentioned in the list in this subdivision.

(a) The director shall encourage all environmental education programs developed for pupils and other citizens to strive for achievement of the goals and the environmental learner outcomes developed by the department of children, families, and learning.

(b) The regional resource centers shall collect, house, promote, and circulate environmental education materials, displays, audio-visual aids, and computer materials for use by the educational cooperative service unit environmental education coordinators.

(c) The resource centers shall evaluate, promote, and distribute to educators materials produced by other agencies and organizations.

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13

126A.08 PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED; IMPLEMENTED; IN-SERVICE.

(a) The department of children, families, and learning shall assist in establishing environmental education programs in all public elementary and secondary schools.

(b) The environmental education program must be interdisciplinary, integrated into the curriculum, and outcome-based.

(c) The program must be implemented through the department of children, families, and learning's learner outcome, assessment and feedback, and instructional processes.

(d) The department of children, families, and learning shall assist school districts, education districts, and other education organizations to develop environmental education policies that maximize the environmental education in-service teacher training in educational cooperative service unit regional offices.

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13

126A.09 INTEGRATED CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT MODELS.

The department of children, families, and learning shall develop curriculum integration models for a learner outcome-based environmental education program. The models must include:

(1) the specific environmental education and curriculum integration goals to be attained;

(2) the various options to achieve the goals;

(3) a hierarchy of learner outcomes composed of state learner goals; integrated learner outcomes; program learner outcomes; and course, unit, and lesson learner outcomes;

(4) mechanisms to communicate the models;

(5) an objective process to evaluate the progress to establish and implement a model integrated environmental education curriculum;

(6) alternatives to evaluate pupils' environmental education progress at the classroom level; and

(7) methods to assess pupils' environmental learning.

History: 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13

126A.10 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SITES.

(a) Sites selected under Laws 1989, chapter 329, article 7, section 21, or other school district sites may be used to demonstrate how environmental education outcomes can be integrated into a comprehensive education curriculum.

(b) The department of children, families, and learning, in consultation with the director, shall assist the research and development sites to plan and implement integrated environmental education programs.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

126A.11 IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING.

The department of children, families, and learning is responsible for in-service teacher training in environmental education.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*

126A.12 REPORTING.

(a) Beginning June 30, 1992, the department of children, families, and learning shall submit a biennial report on its environmental education program to the legislature and the governor.

(b) The report must:

- (1) describe the progress of environmental education learner outcome development and implementation in the public elementary and secondary schools;
- (2) describe in-service involvement and assistance at the state and local level;
- (3) evaluate the efforts of the research and development sites to implement integrated environmental learner outcome-based education; and
- (4) contain an implementation plan to assist school districts in the establishment of an environmental education program in all public elementary and secondary schools.

History: *1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13*