

Note: The following optional policy may be revised or deleted as desired.

The School Board recognizes that the schools play a crucial role in educating students on environmental issues and preparing them to be the stewards of their natural resources. The quality of life in future generations will depend upon our students' willingness and ability to solve today's environmental problems and prevent new ones from developing.

The School Board also acknowledges that local communities may have intrinsic local knowledge of their immediate environment that is often contained and passed on through local cultural traditions and practices. Students can benefit greatly by understanding the link between local human culture, the environment, and ecosystems that have sustained their people.

Therefore, the Board desires to foster attitudes of personal responsibility toward the environment and provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to make decisions involving the environment and its resources. Students should understand basic ecological principles and appreciate the interrelated nature of living processes, the effect of human activities on ecological relationships, and the interdependence of humanity and nature.

School and classroom activities should encourage students to recycle, conserve natural resources, use biodegradable materials when possible, and dispose of wastes in an environmentally sound way. Additionally, schools may consider ways to incorporate cultural knowledge and practices that promote sound, responsible uses of natural resources. Culturally sensitive environmental husbandry may help to ensure the opportunity for future generations to exist with and utilize their environment appropriately.

(cf. 6163.4 – School Gardens, Greenhouses, and Farms)

Students may increase their understanding of science and the interdependence of living things through the study of endangered species in local habitats and through participation in projects related to this study.

(cf. 6141 – Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

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