

# NEW JERSEY

## New Jersey Student Learning Standards Climate Change Education Requirement



### OVERVIEW

- The New Jersey Student Learning Standards support academic excellence, emphasize problem-solving, communication, and skills needed for high-demand jobs.
- The standards go through a revision process every five years. During the 2020 revision process, NJ included a requirement for climate change education across seven content areas in public schools.
- 44 states already include weather and climate; human impacts on Earth systems; and climate change in their science standards, **but NJ is the first state in the U.S. to require climate change content in schools.**

**N.J.A.C.  
6A:8-2.1**

**ADOPTED  
6/01/20**

### TARGET AUDIENCE

The addition of climate change content in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards obligates all school districts to implement climate change curriculum and instruction. There are approximately 1.4 million students that will be impacted by the addition of this climate education requirement.

### COALITION

Developing the climate change education standards involved various stakeholders. NJ's First Lady met with educators and visited schools with outstanding climate change education initiatives. Additionally, The NJ School Board Association convened a Thought Leader Committee to create an implementation plan for the standards.

### FUNDING

The FY23 state budget includes \$5 million for the NJDOE to support districts to implement the 2020 academic standards.

### IMPACT

These learning standards support New Jersey students in understanding climate change science, exploring tools and solutions to combat the climate crisis, and understanding the skills and competencies necessary to thrive in a green economy.



**Coalition for Climate  
Education Policy**

**[Link to find  
more  
information](#)**

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