



naaee

North American Association
for Environmental Education

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT:
EXCERPTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S NON-
REGULATORY GUIDANCE ON *TITLE IV, PART A* PROGRAMS
(Student Support and Enrichment Activities)

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

The following section provides information on the activities that LEAs may conduct under the three content areas of the SSAE program and offers examples of practices that may be helpful to grantees. Generally, LEAs may use funds for a wide variety of activities within each content area, including, but not limited to, direct services for students, professional development for teachers and administrators, salaries of personnel to carry out identified programs and services, including but not limited to athletic administrators, and supplemental educational resources and equipment. The examples provided below are not an exhaustive list of strategies, but rather, describe a range of practices that are illustrative of the possibilities under the law.

Environmental education (ESEA section 4107(a)(3)(G)).

An LEA may use funds for activities in environmental education, which is generally understood as instruction that encourages students to develop knowledge, intellectual skills, attitudes, experiences, and motivation to make and act upon responsible environmental decisions. Environmental education is generally understood to be a multi-disciplinary field that integrates disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, ecology, earth science, atmospheric science, mathematics, and geography.

***SPOTLIGHT:** Many schools across the nation provide environmental education classes for students. Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is one example of an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT provides educators with supplementary curriculum materials, professional development, and resources to integrate environmental education into lesson plans for all grades and subject areas and to use the outdoors to engage students in learning about the world around them. GreenSchools, PLT's service-learning program, inspires students to apply STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to create greener and healthier schools by reducing energy and water use, improving their school site, recycling, and other projects that also save schools money. Program evaluations demonstrate that PLT's Green Schools program contributes positively to important outcomes in student*

learning and engagement including students' presentation, writing, planning, problem solving, technology, leadership and teamwork skills.

RESOURCES: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Guidelines for Excellence: K-12 Learning (<https://naaee.org/eeopro/publication/excellence-environmental-education-guidelines-learning-k-12>), a guide published by the North American Association for Environmental Education, offers a vision of environmental education and promotes progress toward sustaining a healthy environment and quality of life. The guidelines provide learners, parents, educators, home schoolers, administrators, policy makers, and the public a set of common, voluntary guidelines for environmental education.

E-STEM Environmental K-12 Programs. In 2015, the UL company and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) selected five STEM focused environmental, K-12 education projects to recognize with grants. The awards recognize efforts by the five non-profit entities to promote E-STEM learning through projects involving real environmental problems, with each demonstrating success and innovation in this field. Information on the award-winning E-STEM programs, both in school and after school, may be found at: <http://ulinnovationeducation.naaee.net/winners>

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools inspires schools, districts, and IHEs to strive for 21st-century excellence, by highlighting promising practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs that: reduce environmental impact and costs; improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and are especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways. Information on the Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program and past awardees may be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html>