

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2022

There has never been a greater need to foster a more environmentally literate and engaged citizenry through environmental education. Our country is facing unprecedented environmental, social, and economic challenges, from the world's changing climate and loss of species and habitats, to decreasing connection to nature and other threats. Environmental education, with its focus on fostering environmental literacy and civic engagement skills, interdisciplinary learning, and youth leadership, can transform lives and society by equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and agency to address these challenges and succeed in a changing world.

Environmental education is proven to boost academic achievement across all subject areas and is critical to preparing the next generation of problem solvers and civic leaders. Studies have shown that students are more engaged when learning outdoors and develop important skills such as perseverance, self-confidence, and leadership from these experiences. Environmental and outdoor learning can also nurture student health and well-being, and contribute to their social-emotional growth. In short, environmental education is an essential part of a well-rounded education and the education of the whole child.

Introduced into the 117th Congress on April 7, 2022, the bipartisan No Child Left Inside Act offers a giant step forward for more equitable access to environmental and outdoor learning in PreK–12 schools.

Key provisions of the NCLI Act include:

- Provides grants to states to support the development and implementation of Environmental Literacy Plans to integrate environmental education and field experiences into the core academic program in public schools, with an emphasis on professional development in environmental education for teachers.
- Creates a national Pilot Program for Outdoor School Education programs that offer intensive, hands-on, outdoor learning experiences.
- Requires the Secretary of Education to make available on its website information on environmental education resources available across federal agencies.
- Establishes an environmental literacy advisory panel and requires a report on environmental education activities across federal agencies.
- Authorizes \$150 million per year for 2023–2027.

[More information and resources on the NCLI Act](#)

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