

MSDE Office of Science Weekly Newsletter

September 23, 2020

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Virtual Panel on Successful Strategies to Reopen Schools – US DOE – September 23, 1:30 – 2:45p

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education we are sending this invitation to a virtual webinar with a panel discussion on successful strategies used to reopen schools around the country. A geographically diverse group of education practitioners will discuss how they prepared for and executed opening their schools while sharing how they overcame difficulties along the way. This forum is meant to engage all types of K-12 education leaders as they consider creative ways to help students learn this fall.

This webinar will be held online on Wednesday, September 23 from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm EST.

Web Link: Due to high demand, we have secured additional access space. A participant may join the webinar at <https://edstream.ed.gov/webcast/Play/aefab277db624054a7e8620103c404221d> at the time of the event.

If you have already registered, the directions you received in your email are still valid.

Sincerely,
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education

Article: ScienceDaily – Teacher stress linked with higher risk of student suspensions

Posted: 15 Sep 2020 07:59 AM PDT - [link](#)

Just how stressed are teachers? A recent Gallup poll found teachers are tied with nurses for the most stressful occupation in America today. Unfortunately, that stress can have a trickle-down effect on their students, leading to disruptive behavior that results in student suspensions.

Professional Learning: Teaching Remotely: A Practical Guide – Friday Institute

Delivered through the Friday Institute (University of NC), [Teaching Remotely: A Practical Guide](#) one credit course was received by our Maryland educators. It is being offered again this fall for free and is customized for Maryland teachers. Attached is a document advertising this course as well as the [PL Remote Teaching Portal](#). Both opportunities include the ability to earn credits.

Resource – School Library Media Together Recovery Plan

The School Library Media Supervisors developed a phenomenal Recovery Plan, [School Library Media Together](#), from which students, classroom teachers, and library media specialists will benefit.

Funding - Maryland State Department of Education Provides \$10 Million in Grant Funding to Support In-Person Instruction This Fall

Additional COVID-19 Emergency Relief Funds to Support Local School Systems that Reopen Buildings to Students by Second Quarter of School Year

BALTIMORE — As a result of improved health metrics throughout the State, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is encouraging in-person instruction and providing \$10 million in grant awards to support Maryland schools that reopen to students this fall. MSDE will award a total of \$10 million in grants to local school systems, the SEED School, the Maryland School for the Blind, and the Maryland School for the Deaf for starting in-person instruction by the start of the 2020-2021 school year's second quarter. Each grant award will include a base amount of \$200,000 as well as a per-student allocation. Funds can be used for expenses related to building readiness and transportation.

"This additional \$10 million in funds will assist schools in reopening and safely getting some of our kids back into classrooms and into healthy and supportive learning environments," said Governor Hogan. "With our health metrics continuing to improve, small group in-person instruction can occur safely, and should be available across the State."

"It is our responsibility to make sure that school buildings reopen safely as soon as possible so that every child has access to a high quality, meaningful education," said State Superintendent Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. "We are pleased to provide this additional support to assist with health and safety precautions as schools work to return to in-person hybrid and small group instruction this fall."

The \$10 million in grant funding is provided through federal funding, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund), which allows state education agencies to retain no more than 10 percent of its ESSER Fund grant to address emergency needs resulting from COVID-19 through subgrants and contracts.

To qualify for funding, local School Systems will submit a grant application to MSDE that details the system's in person learning plan for the fall. Grants applications are due by October 2nd.

The authority and decision making on safe openings continues to rest with county boards of education. Currently, 16 of the state's local school systems have developed plans for returning children to schools for some form of in person instruction. Decisions for in-person return should be based on a set of statewide metrics, guidelines, and benchmarks issued by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). [Find the guidance and benchmarks here.](#)

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[Fall Reopening Grant Funds 9 21 2020 .pdf](#)

Funding - Secretary DeVos Announces Student-Centered Grant Awards to Expand Personalized Learning through Course Access, Student-Centered Funding

09/18/2020 11:48 AM EDT - [link](#)

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WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced new funding for two grant programs focused on meeting students' unique learning needs and improving student outcomes.

SCIENCE

Professional Learning

NSTA Web Seminar Series Topic Study for K-12 Science Teachers: Distance Learning Strategies that Support Student Sensemaking

Many states, districts, and schools are unsure of what the coming school year will bring. Will we back together in the classroom or teaching and learning from a distance? Perhaps a blend of the two? In this four-part web seminar series, we'll explore ways in which we can continue to give our students experience with relevant, intriguing phenomena to create the need to engage in science learning to explain what they've observed utilizing distance-learning strategies.

The focus of this series will be on synchronous and asynchronous online learning, but we'll also consider how to connect students to their learning communities through smartphones and local computers (no internet access). Participants will experience distance-learning strategies through engagement in high-quality science lessons during the live web seminars and have opportunities to reflect, exchange distance-learning ideas and tools, and pose questions to the presenters and participants during the web seminars and through asynchronous posts in the private learning community forum.

Are you a state, district, or school leader responsible for providing professional learning experiences for K-12 educators? Consider sponsoring a group of teachers to participate in the NSTA Web Seminar Series: Topic Study for K-12 Science Teachers: Distance-Learning Strategies that Support Student Sensemaking.

Registration is \$1,500.00 flat fee per cohort of up to 25 participants, regardless of their NSTA membership status.

Please contact Flavio Mendez via email (fmendez@nsta.org) with your questions and/or to request a quote.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Historic New Jersey EJ Law Signed

Here are a news release and two articles regarding the signing by Governor Murphy of landmark Environmental Justice Act in New Jersey. As New Jersey DEP Deputy Commissioner Olivia Glenn requested last Thursday, please share this information with your colleagues and networks, particularly with social media and other outlets as appropriate. New Jersey DEP would like to make sure the word gets out about this historic occasion.

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200918a.shtml>

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<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/n-j-restricts-environmental-permits-in-minority-communities?context=search&index=3>

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/sustainability/environment/517135-new-jersey-signs-landmark-environmental-justice>

Thanks

Charles

Charles Lee

Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Resources

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Student Programs

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, MD is pleased to offer a wide range of programming this fall to meet the needs of all students and educators. Whether through an immersive synchronous virtual program or a small group hands-on workshop on CBMM's campus, our programs are designed to inspire, challenge, and enlighten your students about the Chesapeake's unique people and places.

- **Virtual Programs:** Designed to meet the needs of students and educators learning in a remote context, CBMM's Virtual Programs include 30-45 minute live, instructor-led synchronous program tailored to fit your class schedule, prioritizing active learning for students. Programs include: The Lighthouse Keeper is Missing!, Making Crab Cakes, and Life on the Oyster Reef. Funding is available to support equitable access for all classrooms.
- **Hands-on Workshops and On-Campus Visits:** Our programs bring the history, environment, and culture of the Chesapeake alive, giving students an up close and personal view of the Bay's people, places, and creatures. Hands-on workshops blend STEM learning with Chesapeake history to create a highly engaging, immersive experience for your homeschool pod, family, or youth organization in a small group of up to 10 participants. Programs include: Build it! Woodworking Workshop, Lighthouse Adventure Workshop, and Underwater World Workshop.

Find out more about CBMM's student programming at cbmm.org/learn/student-programs.

Celebrate the Autumn Equinox with Nature

September 22 marks the Autumn Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, a time when night and day are of almost exactly equal length. It also means it's the first day of fall— the season of cooler, crisper temperatures, gorgeous fall leaves and a super busy time for nature as it preps for the winter season.

To help your family get the most out of this amazing season outside in nature, we've put together our favorite activities, tips and ideas here for you! Plus, our first-ever [Fall Nature Activity Mini Guide](#) shares some great ideas for learning and fun outdoors with your kids.

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Professional Learning

MWEE Practitioners October Webinar

On Thursday, October 1st from 3-4PM we hope that you'll join us for "Virtual Tours Supporting Real World Environmental Field Trips: Creating Online Contexts to Enhance the Exploration of Environmental Sites" featuring Ed Robeck (American Geosciences Institute) and Hema Bhaskaran (Environmental Science Teacher at James M. Bennett High School in Salisbury, MD). Please [register here](#) in advance if you plan to attend.

Full Description: How can we keep people engaged in learning about the environment when opportunities to get into the field with schools and other groups have become so limited? A national team of educators led by the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) has developed an approach to prepare people for trips into the field using interactive virtual contexts in ways that apply concepts of place-based learning to enhance experiences in the field—whether those take place right away or some time from now.

Come to this webinar to see examples of how this approach is being applied at sites on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and to hear about opportunities for you and your organization to learn how to apply it in your own work.

**Reminder that this is an optional webinar series designed for all MWEE practitioners (both formal and non-formal) hosted by NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Chesapeake Bay Program partners. All webinars are recorded and archived on the [Bay Program's YouTube](#). If you have questions or suggestions for future webinars please contact elise.trelegan@noaa.gov. If you want to be removed from my list, please email me directly. Thanks!

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Elise Trelegan

ERT

Chesapeake B-WET Program Coordinator

NOAA Environmental Science Training Center

Pronouns: She/Her

Making the Link Recruitment

Is your county in need of support for developing curriculum to address Next Generation Science Standards and/or Environmental Literacy Standards? Are you an EE provider working with schools who would like to more meaningfully connect your offerings to what the students and teachers are doing in the classroom? We can help! The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's (UMCES) NOAA BWET-funded Making the Link: Aligning MWEEs with NGSS and MD E-Lit through Professional Learning Community (PLC) and Targeted Resources capacity-building project has funding for one more cohort of educators to provide this support.

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This is a collaborative effort by UMCES (Cat Stylinski, PI, and Cassie Doty), MSDE (Kirsten Jackson), and Maryland DNR (Britt Slattery). Our multi-institutional team uses an innovative strategy to increase and improve Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEEs) by (1) linking them to the required Maryland Environmental Literacy and Next Gen Science Standards, and (2) embedding them specifically within science curriculum that integrates and achieves E-Lit and NGSS requirements simultaneously. This is being done by creating opportunities, resources, and guidance for Maryland curriculum writers and EE providers through a professional learning community that will collaboratively develop, review and advise on locally-relevant instructional units for individual school systems that fully integrate comprehensive, standards-based MWEEs to implemented systemically in schools and at EE providers' home facilities (e.g., outdoor education centers, parks, nonprofit EE sites). The professional development will be provided over the course of this school year via regional "hubs" with five people at most (up to four participants and one leader) meeting in person to support social distancing and connecting virtually to the other teams and presenters. Qualifying participants receive up to \$800 in substitute reimbursement/stipends for their efforts.

If your county or environmental education center/park is in need of support developing MWEEs and would like to send a team to participate in this final cohort of Making the Link, please contact Cassie Doty at cdoty@umces.edu. Space is limited, so act soon if you would like to join this professional learning community!

Thank you,

Cassie

National Public Lands Day 2020

The NPLD Virtual Signature Event will be live broadcast on [NEEF's Facebook page](#) at 10 a.m. EDT on Saturday, September 26. Feel free to RSVP and share the event with others using the hashtag #NPLD. If you have any questions, please let me know. We hope you'll join us on Saturday, September 26, at 10 a.m. Eastern!

Strategic Storytelling for Social Change: A Virtual Rethink Outside Workshop

Blue Sky is thrilled to host a 4-part virtual Rethink Outside strategic storytelling workshop in October 2020! This virtual workshop will support leaders, communicators, and practitioners in harnessing the shared narrative to craft compelling stories. Encompassing both storytelling theory and practical application, this hands-on workshop will invite participants to build, share, and reflect on a story that communicates how their work contributes to healthy communities for all. For additional information on session topics, format, facilitators, and more, [click here](#).

Session Dates:

- Part 1: Tuesday, October 20, 1-2:30p EDT
 - Part 2: Thursday, October 22, 1-2:30p EDT
 - Part 3: Tuesday, October 27, 1-2:30p EDT
 - Part 4: Thursday, October 29, 1-2:30p EDT
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Funding

[RFP to Support Environmental Education Providers in the Time of COVID-19](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, with support from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, seeks non-profit organizations to support key Chesapeake Bay Program Goals and Outcomes through one (1) scope of work:

Scope of Work #1EE: Equity and Environmental Education in the Time of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to Support Environmental Education Providers

Due to the significant operational and economic impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Education Workgroup has identified an urgent need to provide financial assistance to environmental education providers. This financial assistance will provide organizations with critical support to retain staffing as their operations pivot from place-based environmental education to virtual platforms and physically distanced schoolyard programs. For more information, please see the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a description of the scope of work and qualifications for bidders.

Proposals are due to 4:00pm EST on Monday, October 19, 2020. Details on how to apply are found in the RFP and also on the Trust's website. The RFP is attached and can also be downloaded from the Trust's website at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/git/>

For more information, please contact:

Sarah T. Koser, PWS, BCES, CERP

Senior Program Officer

Chesapeake Bay Trust

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[NOAA Announces Projects for FY20 Chesapeake Bay B-WET Grant Funding](#)

We are delighted to [announce the projects](#) selected for funding through the FY20 NOAA Chesapeake Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant program—a total of more than \$2.6 million. These projects were selected through a highly competitive proposal process.

This year's new grant projects will all focus on capacity building. Projects will support state efforts toward implementing Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) throughout school districts.

The four new projects are:

- The Stroud Water Research Center will receive \$85,000 to conduct its project, "Expanding Environmental Literacy and MWEE Implementation Capacity across Pennsylvania."
- The Virginia Institute of Marine Science will receive \$83,437 for its project, "Virginia Teachers Innovating and Designing Experiential Science."



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- The Otsego County Conservation Association will receive \$70,080 for its project, “Chesapeake Bay Headwaters Educational Ecosystem.”
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust will receive \$241,858 for its project, “Environmental Education Capacity Building in the Chesapeake Region: A Regional Outdoor Learning Network Initiative and Mini-Grants Program Effort in Partnership with NOAA.”

In addition, \$2,165,731 will support 18 continuing projects in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, enabling nonprofit organizations and universities to partner with school districts to implement MWEEs that will reach more than 23,000 students. [More information on all of these projects](#) is available via the NOAA Fisheries website.

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Shannon Sprague
MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY & PARTNERSHIPS
NOAA CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE
(Pronouns: she/her)

[The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Environmental Education Funding Opportunity is Open!](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is excited to announce that the [Environmental Education Grant Program](#) is now open! This grant program seeks proposals that advance environmental literacy and result in students gaining the knowledge, skills, and appreciation for nature to take responsible actions to protect and restore their local environment. Eligible projects for this funding opportunity fall under two tracks. Both tracks welcome adaptations and alternative approaches due to COVID-19 restrictions and the uncertainty impacting schools throughout Maryland. See the [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) for details about the eligible project types listed below.

- Track 1 Single-Year Requests: There are three types of single-year proposals for a grant period of March 2021 – August 2022:
 - Environmental Literacy Programs (up to \$40,000)
 - Environmental Literacy Planning (up to \$40,000)
 - Outdoor Classrooms (up to \$20,000)
- Track 2 Multi-Year Requests: Applicants may request up to \$40,000 per year for three years (maximum is \$120,000 total award over years 2021-2024) for projects that focus on the establishment or enhancement of a systemic MWEE program that will be embedded into the curriculum of a targeted grade or course at all schools across a school district. Applicants can submit two year or three year requests but all applicants for multi-year requests must talk with Trust staff prior to formulating proposals.

Deadline: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 4pm EST

Who can apply?: Maryland school districts, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, higher education institutions, community associations, and more.

Contact: Tara Drennan tdrennan@cbtrust.org if you have any questions.

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Community Event

Virtual Festival Del Rio Anacostia 10/24

The year 2020 was to mark the fifth anniversary of the annual Festival del Rio Anacostia at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. While we can not hold an outdoor event this autumn, the planning committee led by [ecoLatinos, Inc.](#) is recreating the festival experience in a virtual format.

We invite you and your organization to be an exhibitor at the virtual Festival del Rio Anacostia, 2020 to take place on October 24, 2020. The theme of this year's festival: Let the River Come to You / Deja que el Río Venga a Ti". This is a family-oriented event connecting Latino residents with the river and with organizations promoting environmental conservation action. Even if you are not on our watershed, you will still have the opportunity to share your contributions with our community and this will greatly enrich our 2020 Festival.

The virtual Festival will provide live and prerecorded activities and language-friendly demonstrations through which participants can experience safe outdoor recreation, learn about the environment, become engaged in green stewardship and more. Sensitive to the impact of the pandemic on Hispanic communities, this year we will also accept content related to health promotion and disease prevention.

We ask that each exhibitor provide at least one video, 5-7 minutes max, but you can share as many resources, videos, and events as you would like. All exhibits will be made available in both English and Spanish.

Examples of virtual activities include: short educational videos, outreach educational materials in PDF format; social media challenges, schedule a meet and greet, show and tell, or live event; share a link to a live virtual event on the day of the festival; do a demo, go on a walk and talk, host a trivia game, share your art, and more!

YOU CAN REGISTER [HERE](#)

For any questions contact us at anacostiariverfest@gmail.com.

For more Information go to www.ecolatinos.org and follow us on [Facebook](#)

2021 Fish Art Contest

The 2021 Fish Art Contest hosted by Wildlife Forever is now open and accepting entries from kids K-12. The contest provides youth with an opportunity to share their art as well as learn about fish, aquatic habitats, and their conservation. To learn more, see the article at <https://www.theoutdoorwire.com/releases/a10eb227-fc11-4570-bacf-3ea0f40cc11d> or visit www.statefishart.org

Eddie

[Edward Stoker](#)

Partners & Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist

[Non-Traditional Partners and Communities](#)



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External Affairs, [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
