



Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) July Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, July 10, 2025, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Attendees: Zachary Carey, Stephanie Tuckfield, Susannah Beckerman, Jemima Clark, Laura Collard, Katie Dell, Grace DeLuca, Christina Gladmon, Katherine Gorsuch, Sarah Haines, Deborah Her Cornwell, Victoria Howard, Katrina Jones, Lisa Jones, Keith Krempel, Chelsea McClure, Karen Mullin, Jo Anne Murray, Melanie Parker, Larissa Pasco, Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Maria Prawirodihardjo, Susan Richards, Mark Scallion, Shannon Sprague, Jillian Storms, Emily Stransky, Chris Wheedleton, Olivia Wisner

Welcome & Meeting Began at 10:02

Member Updates

- Welcome Lisa Jones (MDE) and Christina Gladmon (Straughan Environmental Center)
- [Revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) is open for public comment,
- Provide feedback on the draft revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement between July 1 and September 1, 2025, by emailing comments@chesapeakebay.net.
- Maryland Environmental Literacy Advisory Network (MELAN) has been awarded additional funds through the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- 2026 MAEOE Conference: Rooted in Nature: Using the Outdoors to Empower Action and Understanding (February 18-22, 2026). Request for proposals are now open. [Fill out this form to submit your presentation for consideration.](#)
- MAEOE will be recruiting staff this summer.
- Current MD Green Schools Act ends in FY 28.

Presentation: Professional Development Points

Keith Krempel, Educator Preparation Coordination, Division of Educator Effectiveness



Background

- In April 2024, revised licensure regulations went into effect requiring Maryland educators to earn Professional Development Points (PDPs) to renew an educator license.
- In many instances, professional development activities can lead to PDPs *without the need for the activities to be pre-approved by MSDE*.
- Educators must complete 90 PDPs that include professional learning in each of the following four areas:
 - Content or pedagogy related to an area on the educator's license
 - English as a Second Language, Sheltered English, or Bilingual Education
 - Strategies for teaching students with disabilities, or differentiated instruction for students with diverse learning needs
 - Culturally Responsive Teaching or diverse student identities in education
 - Educators have the option of earning PDPs through a variety of options for detailed descriptions of each, visit the [MSDE Licensure PDP webpage](#)

Approval to Issue PDPs

- PDP's were created to recognize the work educators are doing outside of CPD coursework.
- Educators can now utilize two avenues towards licensure renewal: CPD's and PDP's.
- Approved entities not required to submit professional development activities to MSDE for approval include:
 - o Maryland local education agencies (LEAs)
 - o Approved nonpublic schools
 - o Maryland State Agencies
 - o Other State Departments of Education



- The following activities do not require MSDE approval to be considered Professional Development Activities:
 - o Professional conferences
 - o Workshops
 - o Institutes
 - o Seminars of 4 or more hours
 - o CEUs from a provider accredited by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET)

Tracking PDPs

- Educators log the completion of PDPs in their Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP).
- The proposed IPDP requires approval from a supervisor of the teacher applying for the renewal of licensure.
- Provider responsibilities: entities authorized to issue PDPs must provide the license holder with documentation that demonstrates the following:
 - o Description of the professional development activity
 - o Date(s) of the activity
 - o Number of PDPs earned by completing the activity
 - o Authorized entity that approved the activity

Questions

- MAEOE currently offers CPDs for several workshops, when those workshops need renewal, they can just offer the same workshops and transfer them to PDPs.



- A school district has its own approval process for PDPs. So, if partners are providing teacher PD to more than one district, it may behoove them to seek MSDE approval and offer CPDs rather than multiple district approvals.
- There is a CPD/ PDP Liaison for each LEA.
- There is a suggested list of offerings for educators, a comprehensive list will not be developed because offerings of providers are always changing.

Working Group Updates

- **Networks**

- o First OLP Newsletter went out
- o Sign up here:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDDNR/subscriber/new?gsp=MDDNR_3

- **Access to Nature**

- o Next meeting moved to July 21st
- o Working towards the development of a formal recommendations including:
- o Continuation of the directory of Environmental Literacy Providers currently under development by MAEOE/ MELAN
- o Collecting data around the implementation of environmental literacy
- o Maryland adopts an Outdoor School for All model.
- o Questions: Is there a definition for outdoor education? Does it refer to residential programs or other outdoor learning opportunities?

- **College and Green Careers**

- o Next meeting July 14th
- o Working towards the development of formal recommendations including:



- o Development of a new CTE pathway in “Environmental Sustainability and Technology”
- o Develop a local AI search and modeling program to construct learning and building tools specific for Maryland
- o Move to a 4 Science Credit requirement for Maryland Graduation

- **Environmental and Climate Literacy**

- o Next meeting July 24th
- o Working towards the development of formal recommendations including:
- o Updating the Maryland Environmental Literacy Plan to incorporate Climate
- o Requiring outdoor learning as part of teacher licensure as part of either pre-service/continuing education
- o Safe and healthy communities utilize grant program or storytelling to incentivize exciting environmental and climate literacy implementation at a small scale. Tell the story of where it's working.

- **School Sustainability**

- o Next meeting Aug 28th
- o Recent meetings included review of the revised School District Planning Outcome of the 2014 Watershed Agreement which now includes sustainable schools.
- o Discussed models and examples of best practices around sustainable schools.
- o Want to share information about the resources available to schools and LEAs to implement high impact actions for sustainable schools.



Recommendation Discussion

- Working groups should be ready to present draft recommendations and actions for initial feedback at the next full partnership meeting in September.

Public Comment

- Previous iterations of OLP included recommendations that supported the Environmental Literacy Specialist position at MSDE.
- What is the process to support the recertification of environmental literacy graduation requirements? MSDE Leadership shared the recertification forms with each of the districts. MSDE reaches out to each district, Superintendents certify that they are meeting those requirements in their LEA.
 - o MAEOE requested MSDE to share an overview of the process to recertify the environmental literacy graduation requirement.
- MSDE is developing an Environmental Literacy Plan template.
- As currently written, the OLP Executive Order limits participation in the Partnership to formal representatives. Should it be a recommendation to expand that participation? Perhaps, allow non-member representatives to participate working groups?

Meeting Closed at 12:00