



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 3, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: 2014 Watershed Agreement – Seeking Environmental Literacy Management Strategy Comments

Governor Terry McAuliffe signed the [2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) in June, a reaffirmed message that watershed education, a critical element of science and environmental literacy, is essential for all students regardless of where they live in the Commonwealth. Though the Agreement focuses on multiple management strategies concerning the Chesapeake Bay and its resources, the management strategies for the education goal are considered to have statewide application. Virginia will be making an expanded effort around the three outcomes of the education goal.

The Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams have been crafting "management strategies" that describe the steps necessary to achieve the Agreement's Vision including education outcomes for science and environmental education. These management strategies offer insight into the Bay Program partners' proposals for reaching each outcome by 2025. The strategies provide broad, overarching direction and will be further supported by two-year work plans summarizing the specific commitments, short-term actions, and resources required for success.

Public input is essential to creating management strategies that are meaningful and effective. The draft management strategies are open for public input now through **April 30, 2015**. The Environmental Literacy Outcomes Management Strategy may be found at http://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/22071/5_env_literacy_public_3-13-15_2.pdf.

For individuals or organizations interested in offering feedback, please:

- Visit the [Environmental Literacy Management Strategy](#) and provide [feedback](#) on this strategy or [read comments from others](#); or
- Send an e-mail message to agreement@chesapeakebay.net.

To stay informed as the Environmental Literacy Outcomes Management Strategy and other management strategies progress:

- Sign up for our weekly [Bay Brief](#) newsletter.
- Visit our [subscription page](#) to sign up for the appropriate mailing list. E-mails from the mailing list will include information about relevant meetings and public input periods.
- View a listing of [Management Strategy related events](#) or the Chesapeake Bay Program [calendar](#).

Additional information regarding science and environmental literacy efforts will be shared in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact Eric M. Rhoades, director, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-

mail at Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-2481.

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