



Education Strategic Plan, 2009-2029

NOAA's Education Mission

The America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69) gives NOAA broad authority for educational activities. Stemming from this statute and other program-specific education mandates, the NOAA education community works collaboratively to advance the priorities outlined in NOAA's Education Strategic Plan and meet NOAA's Education Mission: "To advance environmental literacy and promote a diverse workforce in ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, weather, and climate sciences, encouraging stewardship and increasing informed decision making for the nation". This strategic direction is leveraged by the many cross-cutting education programs and initiatives (highlighted below) across NOAA.



Students at work with the River Center Foundation, a 2008 Pacific Northwest B-WET grant recipient

Bay Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET)

B-WET provides grants to promote locally relevant environmental education for K-12 students and related professional development for educators. B-WET serves California, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Hawai'i, New England, and the Pacific Northwest. <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>

Climate Communications and Education Program

The NOAA Climate Communications and Education Program improves public climate science literacy and raises public awareness and understanding of, and engagement with, NOAA's climate science and services programs. <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/education/>



Data visualization of an El Niño event

Coastal Services Center (CSC)

The NOAA Coastal Services Center works to preserve the environmental, social, and economic components of coastal communities by providing the specialized tools such as fellowship programs, educational resources, and coastal data and data visualization tools. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/>

Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP)

CRCP works closely with states and U.S. territories to address climate change, adverse impacts of fishing, and land-based sources of pollution that damage reef ecosystems. <http://www.epp.noaa.gov>



NOAA diver conducts a bleaching survey of boulder star coral in the Caribbean in 2005

Educational Partnership Program (EPP)

EPP with Minority Serving Institutions provides financial support to academic institutions through competitive processes. The program's goal is to increase the number of students, particularly from underrepresented communities, who are trained and graduate with STEM degrees in NOAA mission fields. <http://www.epp.noaa.gov>

Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program

ELG supports STEM learning by providing funding for formal and informal education projects implemented on regional to national scales, with the goal of increasing environmental stewardship and informed decision-making among public and K-12 audiences. <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/ELG/>



EPP Ph.D graduate in Atmospheric Sciences at a Hurricane Hunter console

Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program

The Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship provides successful undergraduate applicants with academic assistance, and a 10-week NOAA internship that provides "hands-on" experiences in NOAA-mission science, technology, and educational activities. http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/Hollings_info.html



Science on a Sphere,
Orlando Science Center

Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program awards outstanding scholars in marine biology, oceanography, or maritime archaeology, particularly to women and minorities, and supports graduate-level research <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov/aboutscholarship.html>

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)

NERRS protects more than 1.3 million coastal and estuarine acres in 27 reserves located in 21 states and Puerto Rico for purposes of long-term research, education and stewardship. <http://nerrs.noaa.gov/Education.aspx>

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

NMFS provides students and educators research experiences and materials that support the NMFS mission: stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems. <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

National Ocean Service (NOS) Education

NOS Education serves educators and students through Web sites and projects that promote environmental literacy using ocean, coastal, and climate science. <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education>

National Sea Grant Program

An established network of Sea Grant educators, located at universities across the Nation, is committed to NOAA's goal of advancing environmental literacy and educating future environmental professionals and leaders. Sea Grant educators tailor their education efforts to meet regional needs. <http://www.seagranted.net>

National Weather Service (NWS)

NWS goal is to minimize fatalities and injuries and protect property from severe weather. NWS staff conducts almost 2500 schools each year, providing weather, climate and water information to teachers and students, grades K-12. <http://www.weather.gov/>

NOAA's Satellites and Information Service (NESDIS)

NESDIS partners and collaborates with science-based agencies and academia to provide K-12 teachers, students, educational professionals, and the public with satellite information and educational tools. <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov>

Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) Program

OER is committed to engaging educators and students in near-real time ocean exploration to raise America's environmental literacy and interest in ocean sciences and advanced technologies used to explore the ocean. <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/welcome.html>

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)

Since 1972, the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has been federally mandated to promote STEM education through 13 national marine sanctuaries and one marine national monument. <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education>

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

OAR educates the public through Web sites and partnerships that promote NOAA research in ocean, atmosphere and climate science. <http://research.noaa.gov>

Teacher at Sea Program

Teacher at Sea provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending kindergarten through college-level teachers to sea aboard NOAA research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. The valuable skills and knowledge that teachers acquire are then brought to the classroom. <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/>



Students plant native
grasses at Weeks Bay
Estuarine Reserve, AL



GOES-12 imagery of
Hurricane Dolly July 23,
2008



Students observing touch
tank, Channel Islands
National Marine
Sanctuary, CA



NOAA Teacher at Sea,
Laurie Degenhart, helps
sort clams on NOAA Ship
Delaware II