



The No Child Left Inside Act of 2011
S.1372 H.R.2547

Purpose: The No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Act supports environmental and outdoor education in our nation's pre-K through 12 public schools. It provides incentives for states to create and implement State Environmental Literacy Plans to ensure that students have a basic understanding of the environment before they graduate. Environmental literacy is central to improving student achievement and engagement in science and other core subjects, to create a stronger economy through a prepared workforce, and to ensure a healthy environment.

Supporting Organizations: The No Child Left Inside Coalition is comprised of more than 2,000 environmental, educational, business, health care, faith-based, and other organizations from all 50 states, representing more than 50 million people.

Legislative history: In September 2008, the full House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the No Child Left Inside Act in a bi-partisan vote of 293-109. Senator Jack Reed and Representative John Sarbanes reintroduced their bills in the 112th Congress on July 14.

Legislative Content:

- Incentives for states to create and implement **State Environmental Literacy Plans** to ensure their students are environmentally literate when they graduate. The content of the plans are left to states and no state is required to develop a plan.
- Grants to states to improve **teacher quality and professional development** to support implementation of environmental literacy plans in schools and school systems.
- Building **national capacity** through grants to state education agencies, local education agencies, institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations for dissemination of proven environmental education models and studies of national significance.

Need for Environmental Education:

- Environmental education has a measurably positive impact on **student achievement** in science, reading, math, and social studies. It helps increase student motivation, critical thinking, and provides an academic pipeline to future careers in science and math.
- Environmental education “in the field” as part of the regular school curriculum gets kids outside, contributing to **healthy lifestyles** through outdoor recreation, exercise, play and experience in the natural world that is critical to helping prevent obesity and address other related health problems.
- Environmental education provides critical tools for a **21st Century workforce** by providing students with the skills to understand complex environmental issues so they may make informed decisions in their own lives and find solutions for real world challenges facing us as a nation. Business leaders also increasingly believe that an environmentally literate workforce is critical to their long-term success.

For More Information:

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