

SOUTHEASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Landscape ANALYSIS



Ashley Hoffman, Executive Director
Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance

A partnership of the SEEA States

SEEA is a **network** of the **eight state affiliates** of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) located in the southeast region of the U.S. - EPA Region 4.



AL - Environmental Education Association of Alabama

FL - League of Environmental Educators in Florida

GA - Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

KY - Kentucky Association for Environmental Education

MS - Mississippi Environmental Education Association

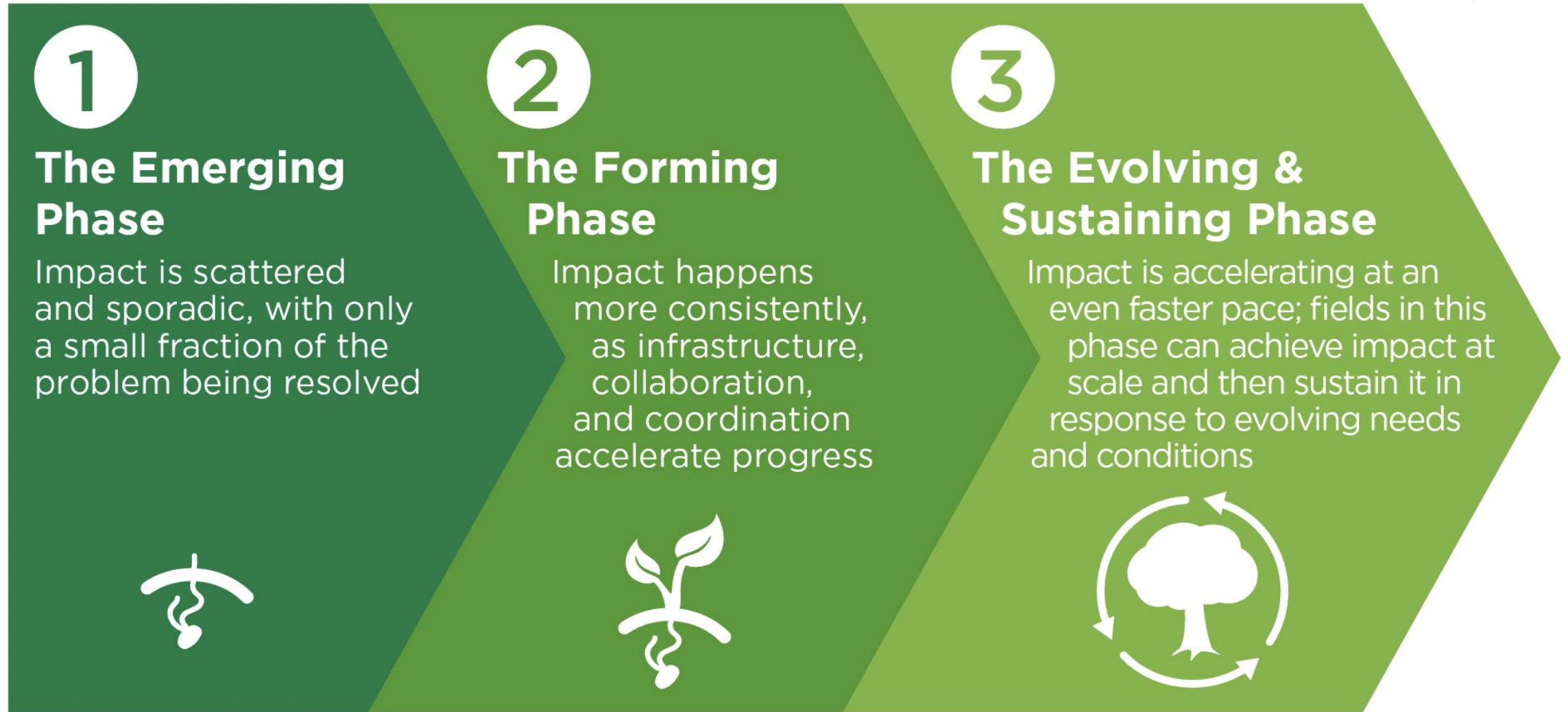
NC - Environmental Educators of North Carolina

SC - Environmental Education Association of South Carolina

TN - Tennessee Environmental Education Association



Field Building: Lifting All Boats



Source: The Bridgespan Group

Identifying Gaps and Barriers to Access



- What does environmental education look like **on the ground**?
- How do we **work together** to strengthen EE in the Southeast?
- What would a **stronger, more inclusive EE movement** look like?



Funders



naaee

North American Association
for Environmental Education



NFWF



**Pisces
Foundation**



Survey Process

Environmental Education Providers Survey- 2023

Thank you for taking part in this landscape analysis of environmental education efforts in the southeast. This analysis will take a comprehensive look at the scope of environmental education offerings available in the southeast, including those currently being done in the southeast and those that are not. The analysis will provide opportunities for service providers to share their experiences and efforts toward environmental education.

By participating in this survey, you are agreeing to have your information listed as part of a state and regional landscape of environmental education in schools across the southeast. Only high level details will be shared.

Estimated time to complete: 15 minutes

This survey is focused on PreK-12 Schools. If your organization is not a school, but provides environmental education programs please take our [SEEA: Environmental Education in PreK-12 Schools Survey- 2023](#).

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 Not shared

Next

PreK-12 Schools Survey - 2022/ 2023

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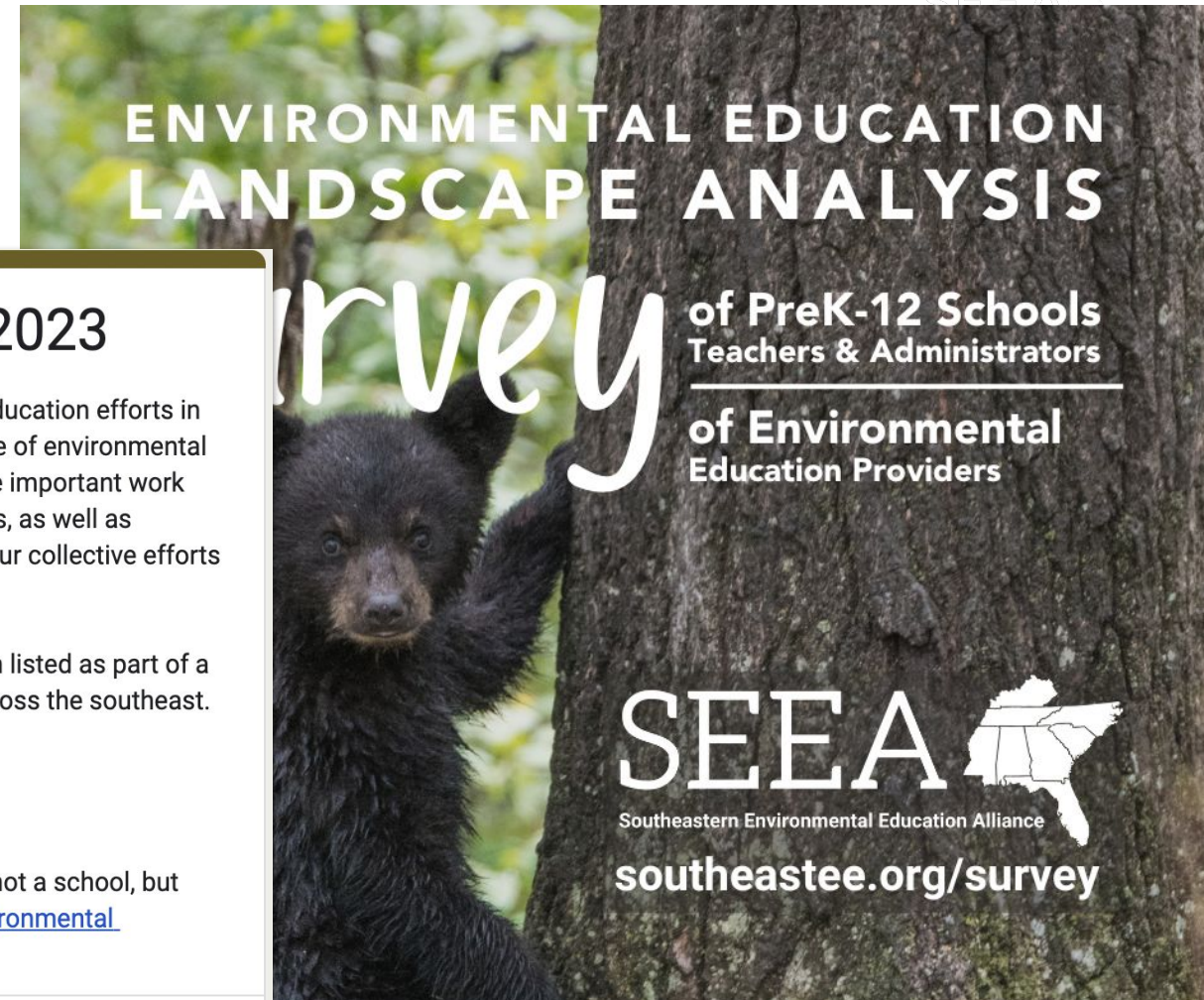
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* Indicates required question



FINDINGS

Findings

Environmental Education Providers



SURVEY REPRESENTATION

EE Providers

718

Counties Represented

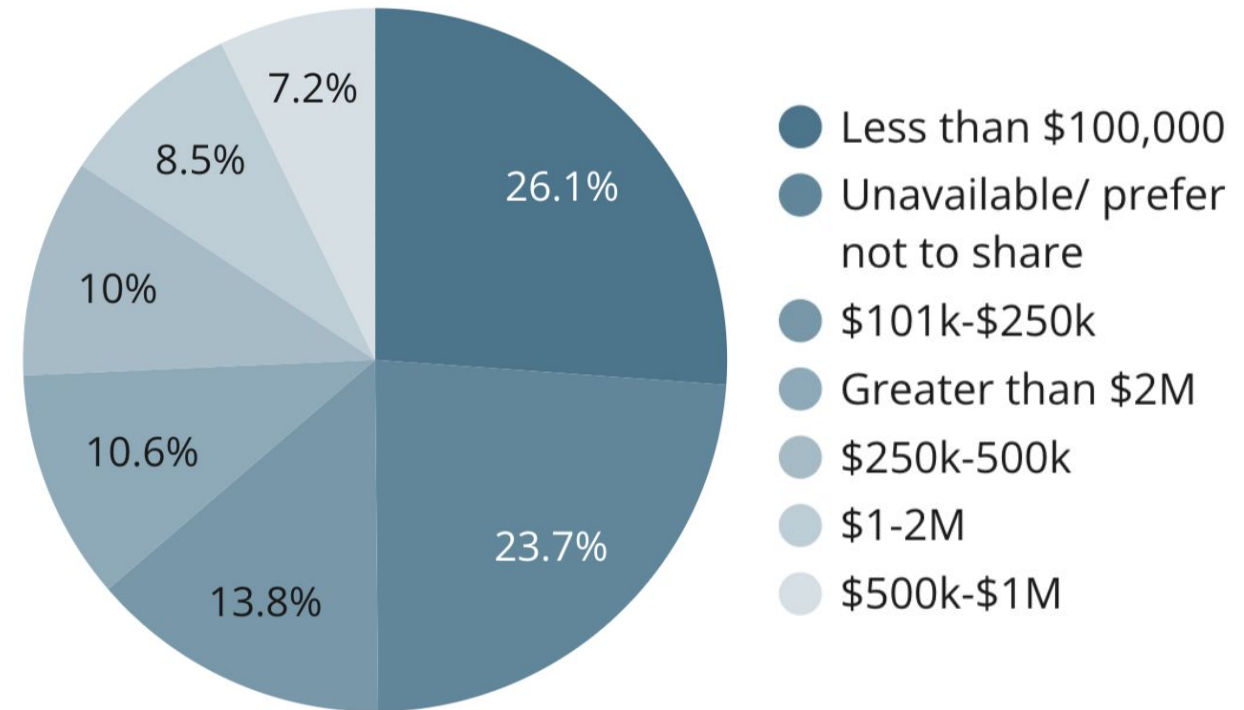
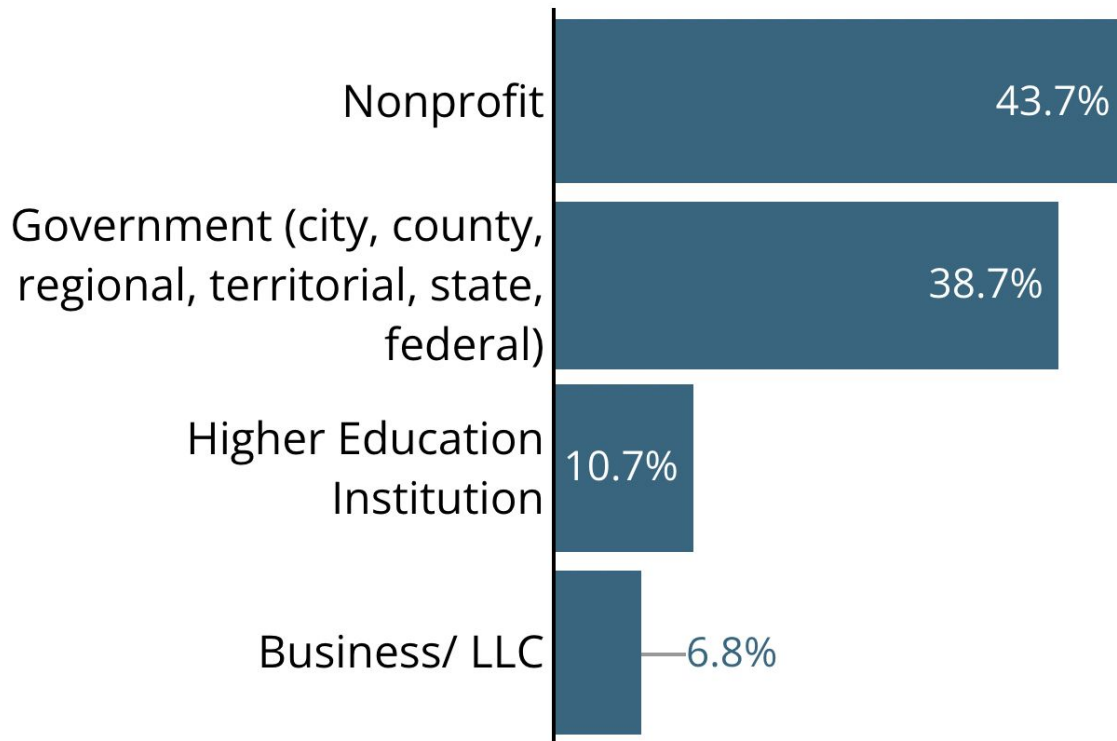
269

Findings

EE Providers | Survey Representation



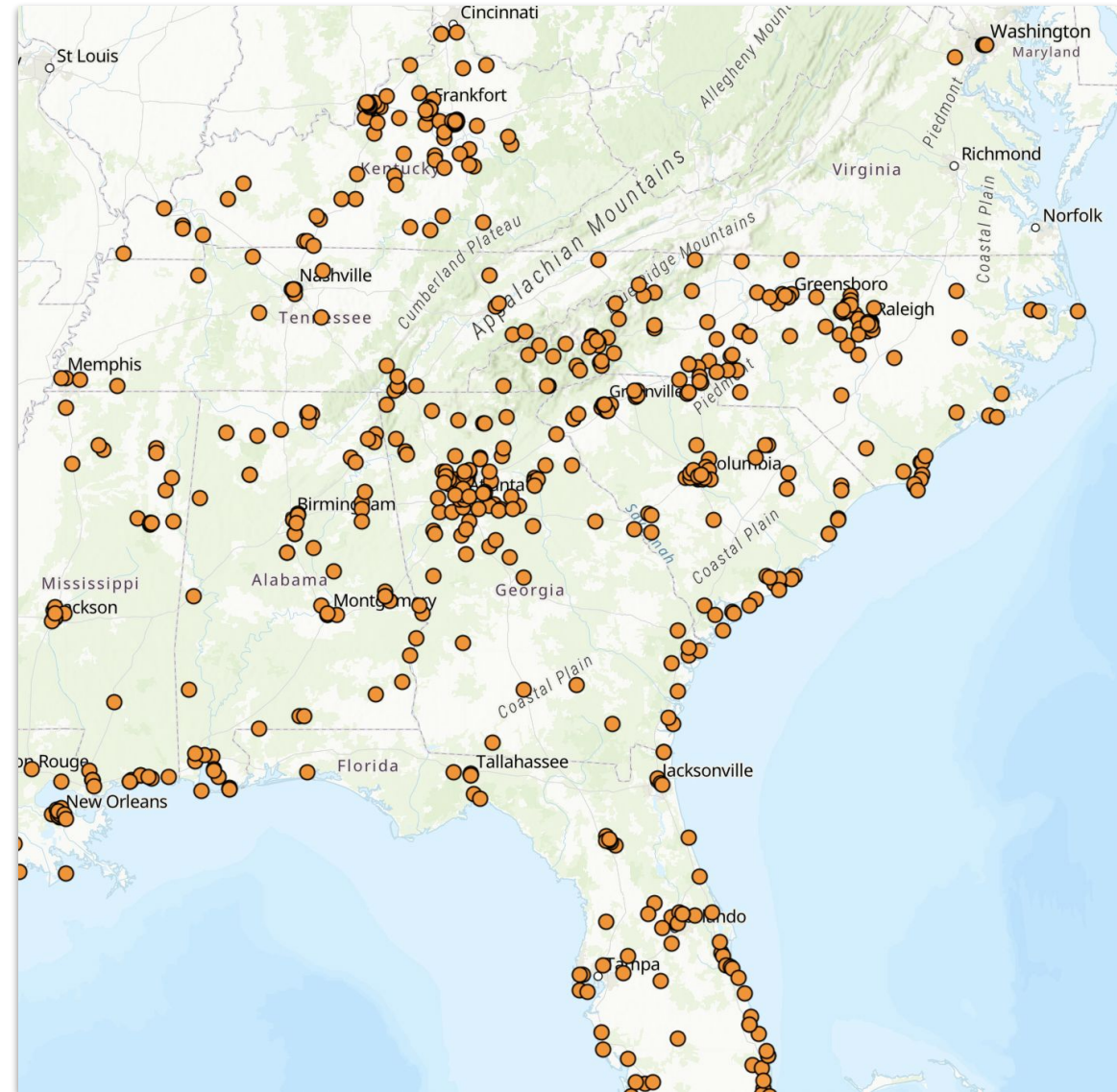
Over 40% of EE providers are working with a budget of less than \$250,000.



Findings

EE Providers | Geographic Disbursement

There are **gaps in services** found across the region.



Findings

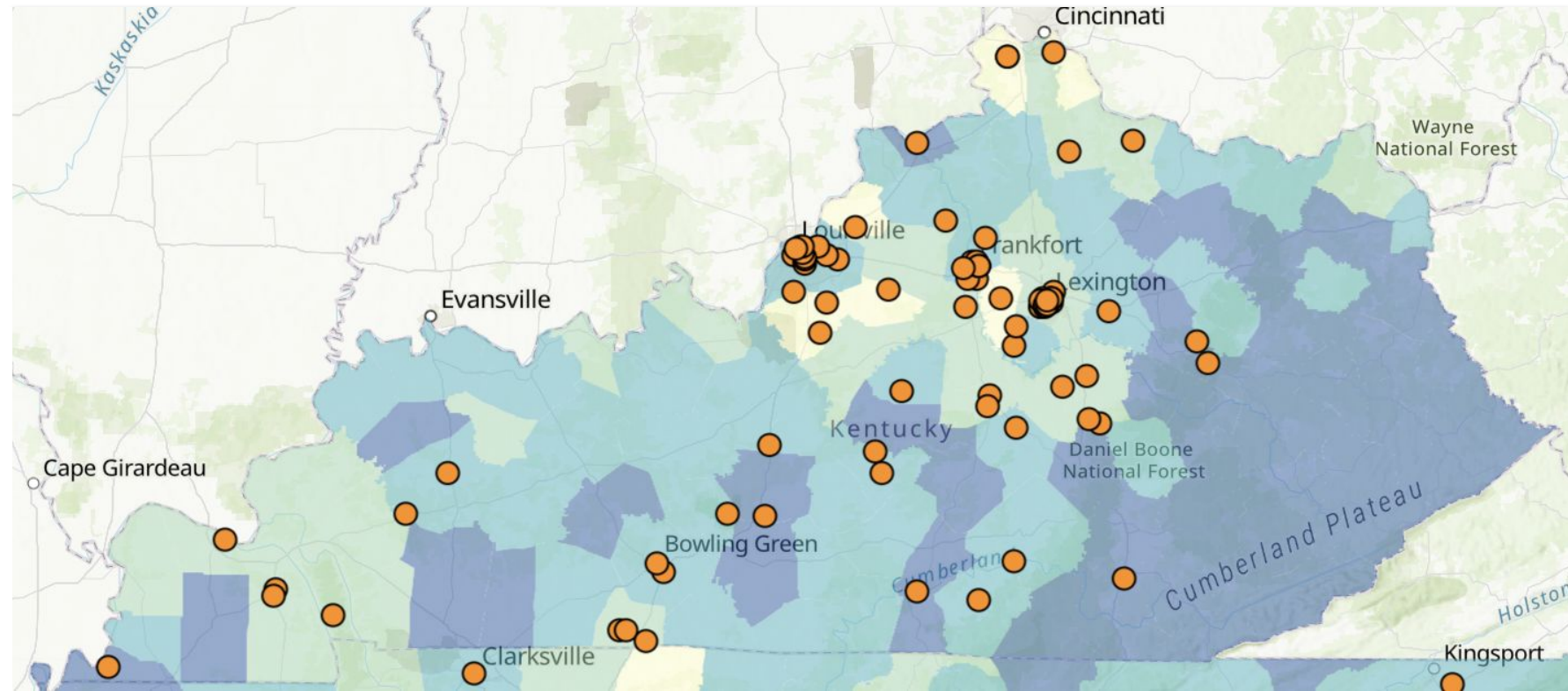
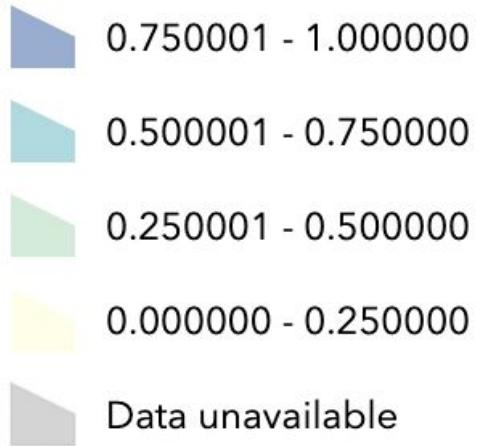
EE Providers | Geographic Disbursement



There are gaps in services in **rural areas**, **areas with the highest social vulnerability index**, and areas with the **lowest income**.

Overall SVI - Counties

Overall percentile ranking



Findings

EE Providers | Teacher and Student Engagement



The programs currently offered **do not provide the depth of experience needed** to have a substantial impact on knowledge and behavior.

Student Participant	< 1 hr	1 hr	2-3 hrs	4-7 hrs
1 day	8%	30%	9%	7%
2-3 days	1%	3%	4%	3%
4-7 days	1%	4%	3%	7%
8-21 days	1%	3%	1%	1%
22-31 days	1%	1%	1%	1%
32-90 days	0%	2%	1%	1%
91+ days	1%	3%	1%	2%

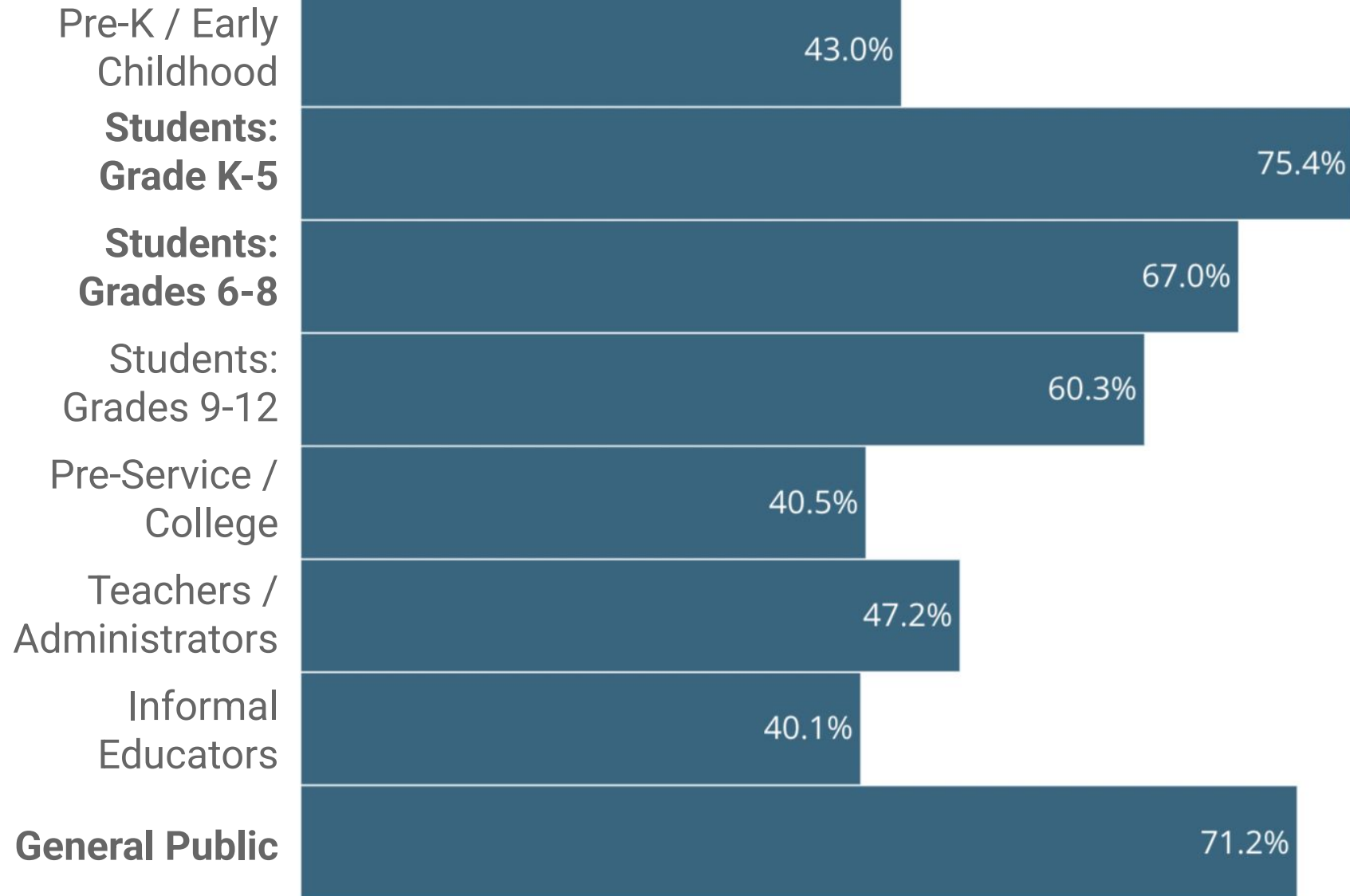
Teacher Participant	< 1 Hr	1 hr	2-3 hrs	4-7 hrs
1 day	5%	27%	11%	11%
2-3 days	1%	4%	4%	7%
4-7 days	1%	3%	2%	5%
8-21 days	1%	3%	1%	1%
22-31 days	1%	0%	1%	0%
32-90 days	0%	2%	1%	2%
91+ days	0%	1%	1%	2%

Findings

EE Providers | Audiences Served



Providers are mostly serving **grades K-5 and the general public.**

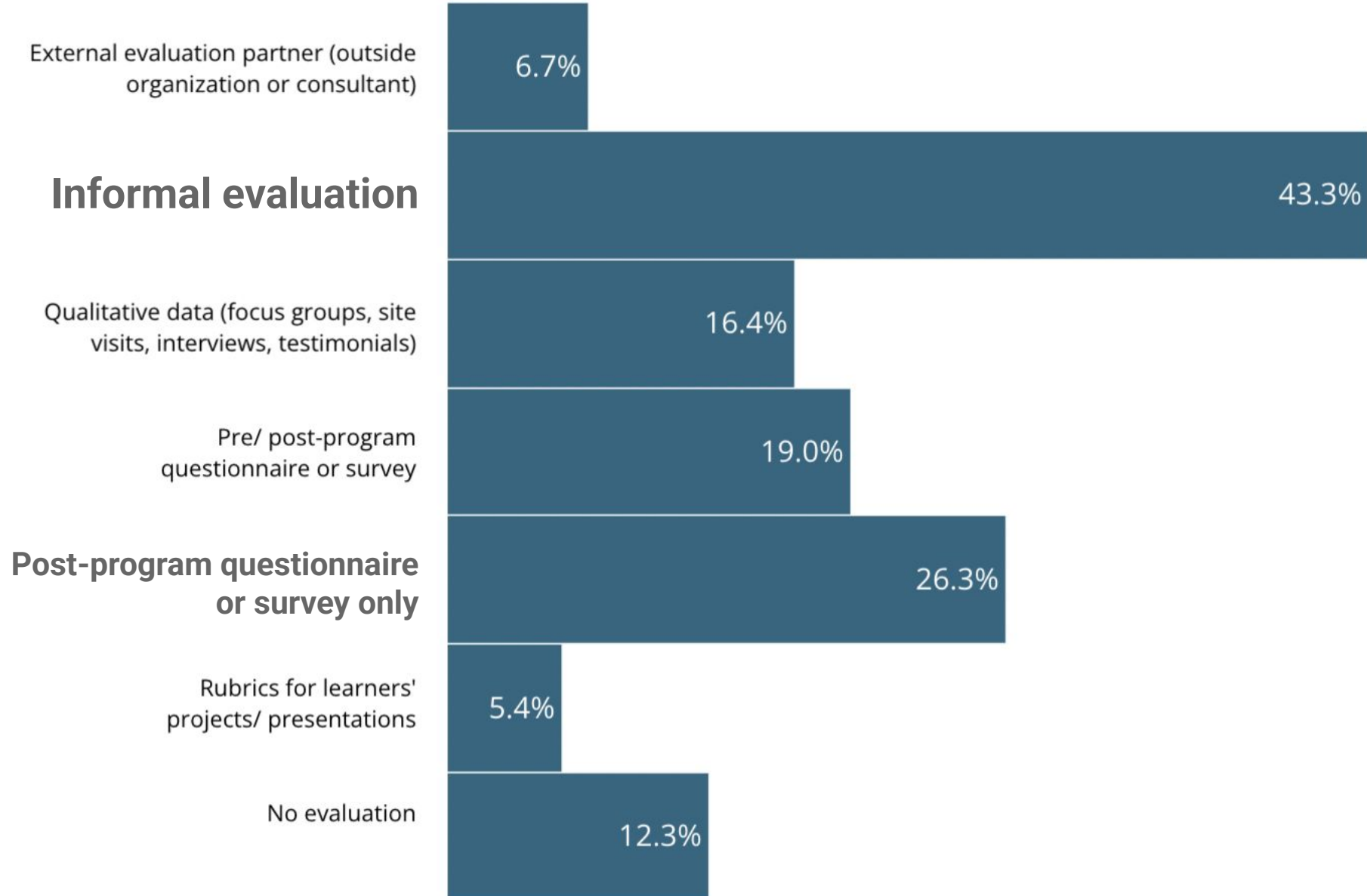


Findings

EE Providers | Evaluation



Most providers are using **informal methods** of program evaluation.



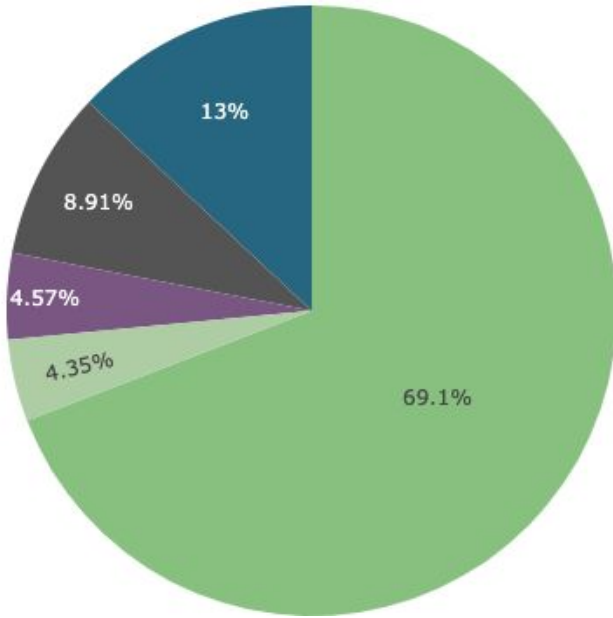
Findings

EE Providers | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

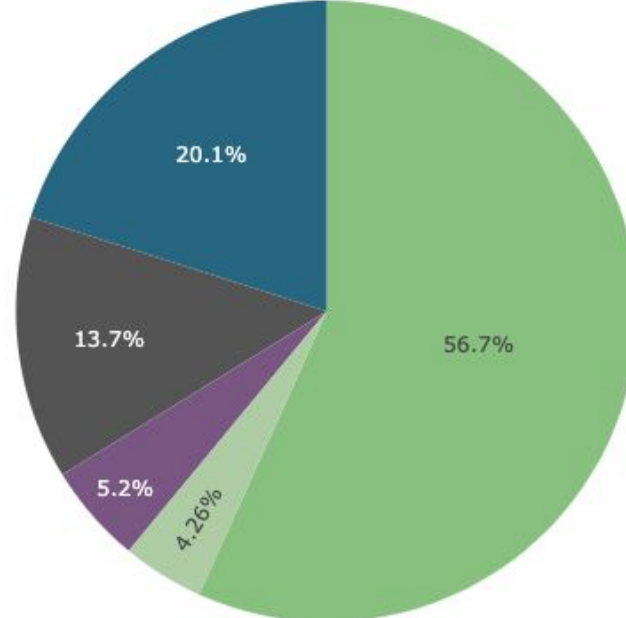


Staff of environmental education providers **do not reflect the overall demographics** of the region.

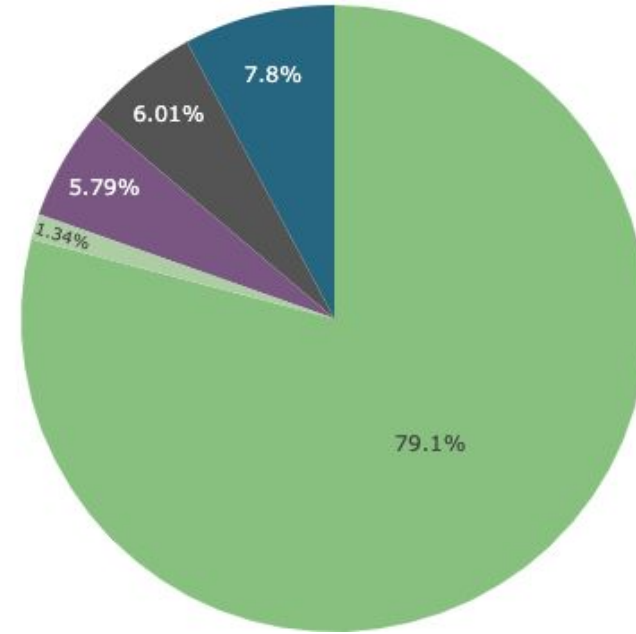
Staff % BIPOC



Senior Staff % BIPOC



Board % BIPOC



- No BIPOC Staff
- No Response
- 6-32%
- 1-5%
- 51-100%
- 33-50%

Findings

EE Providers | Employee Benefits



In comparing starting salaries for similar fields, environmental education was found to be **lower than all three comparison fields.**

The average **starting salary for environmental education** reported in our survey was **\$29,515** for a full-time position compared to

- \$34,900 for **education**
- \$39,100 for **forestry**
- \$37,800 for **hospitality and tourism**

	Full-time Staff	Part-time Staff
Healthcare	60.0%	5.0%
Housing	4.6%	5.2%
Paid Time Off	63.1%	10.2%
Retirement	53.8%	5.7%
N/A	16.2%	34.3%



Findings

EE Providers | Employee Benefits



State ^	Full-Time (Year-Round)	Part-Time (Year-Round)	Temp/ Seasonal	Contractors	Volunteers	Starting Hourly Rate (\$)
Alabama	4	1	3	2	30	13.74
Florida	3	2	2	1	233	16.58
Georgia	5	4	3	1	227	14.9
Kentucky	2	1	3	1	56	15.48
Mississippi	2	1	1	2	107	16.01
North Carolina	5	2	4	2	61	13.93
South Carolina	3	1	2	0	125	14.6
Tennessee	10	2	6	0	58	14.94
Overall Average	4	2	3	1	119	14.86

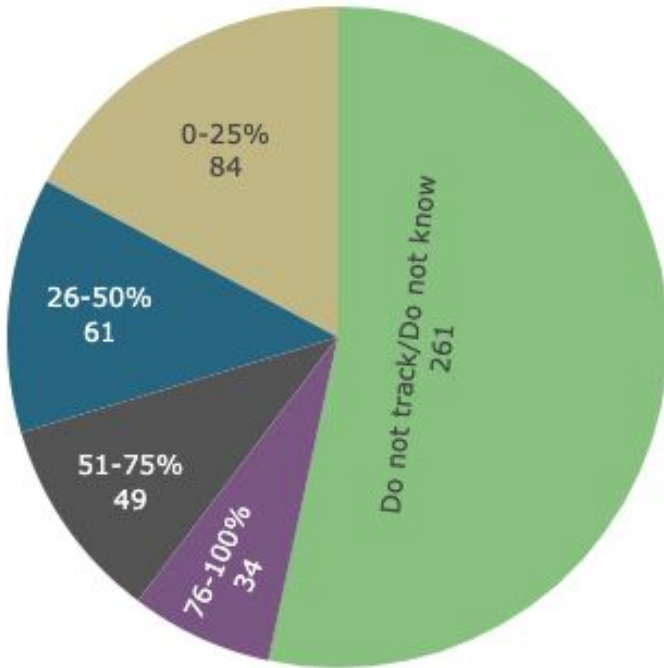
Findings

EE Providers | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

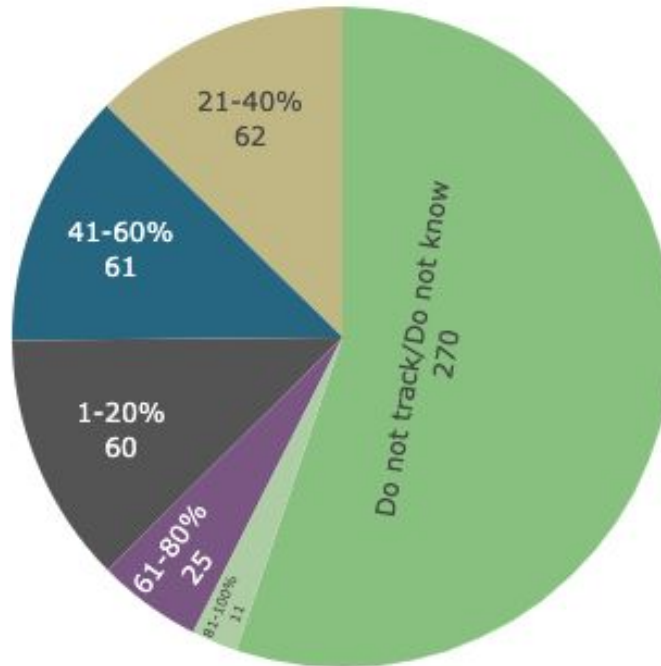


Few organizations are collecting demographic information that could be used to **better understand the reach and impact of the field.**

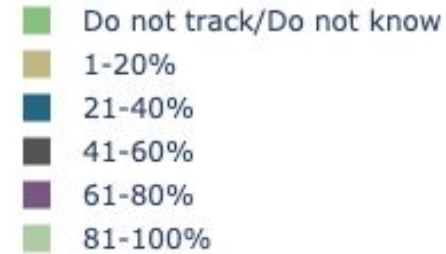
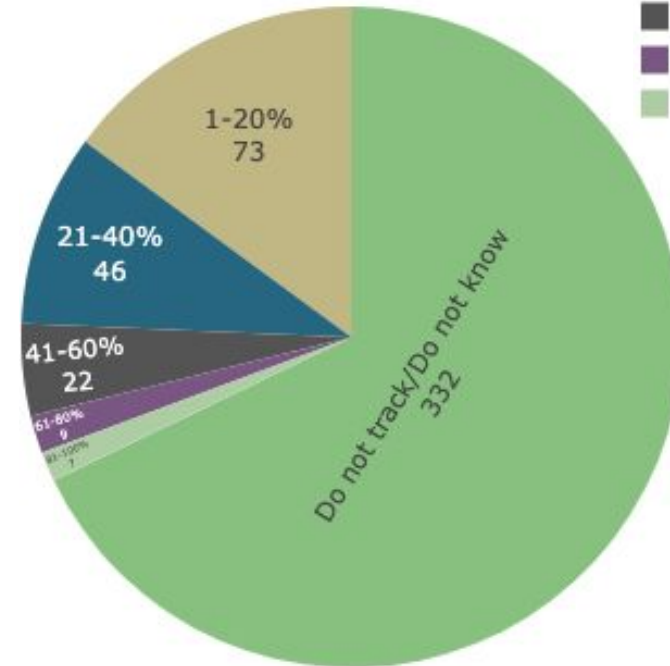
Title I Participants



Percentage of BIPOC Students Served



Percentage of BIPOC Educators Served



QUESTIONS?

Survey Process

PreK-12 Schools Survey - 2022/ 2023

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EE LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

survey

of PreK-12 Schools
Teachers & Administrators

SEEA 
Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance
southeastee.org/survey

FINDINGS

Findings

K-12 Schools | Teachers & Administrators

Findings by Topic

- Outdoor Learning and Outdoor Spaces
- Field Trips
- Professional Development
- Integration of EE Across the Curriculum



SURVEY REPRESENTATION

Schools/ Institutions
617

Teachers/ Educators
617

Administrators
126

County, State
258

Findings

K-12 Schools | Outdoor Learning



% Take students outdoors

76%



Take students outdoors

565



Schools utilizing outdoors

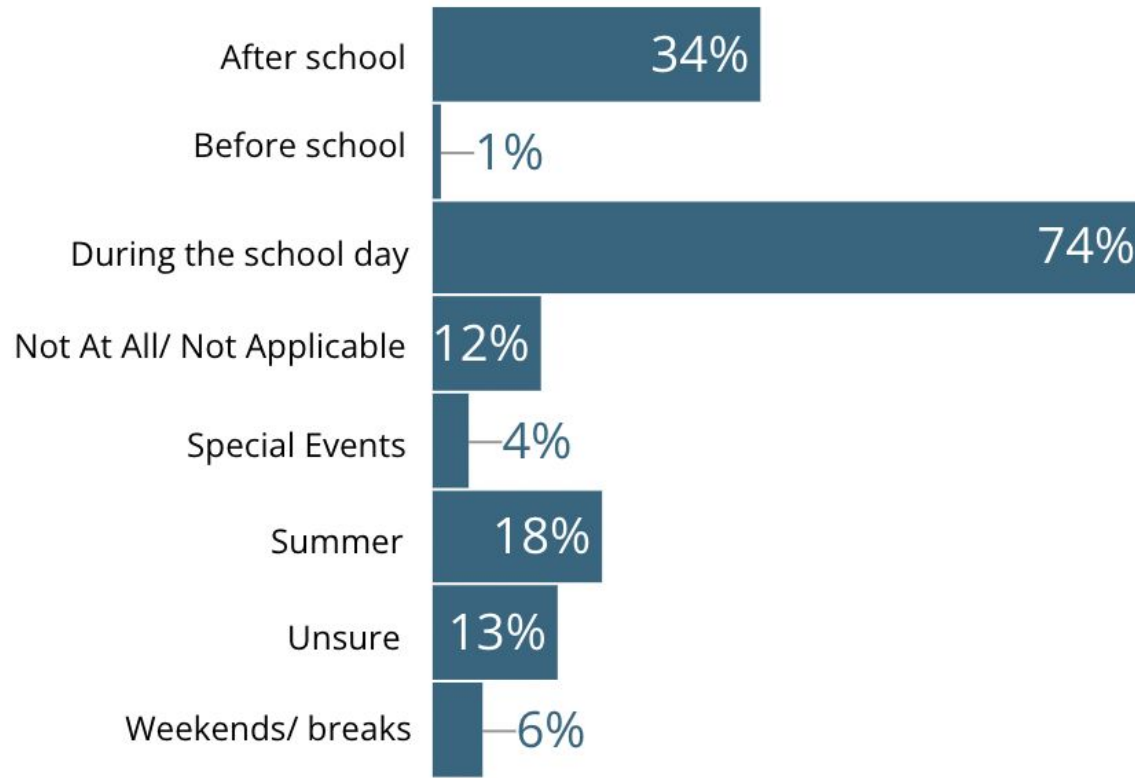
474

Findings

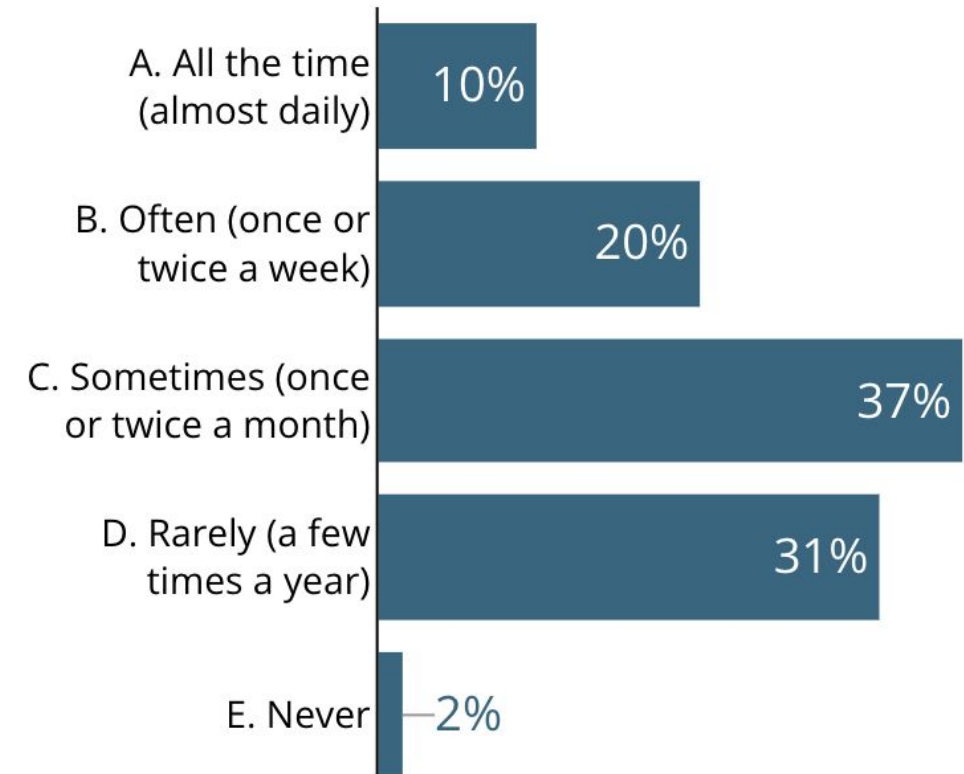
K-12 Schools | Outdoor Learning - Frequency



When **outdoor learning spaces** are being used at the school.



Percent of respondents indicating how often, **in the past two years, taking students outside to learn on the school campus.**



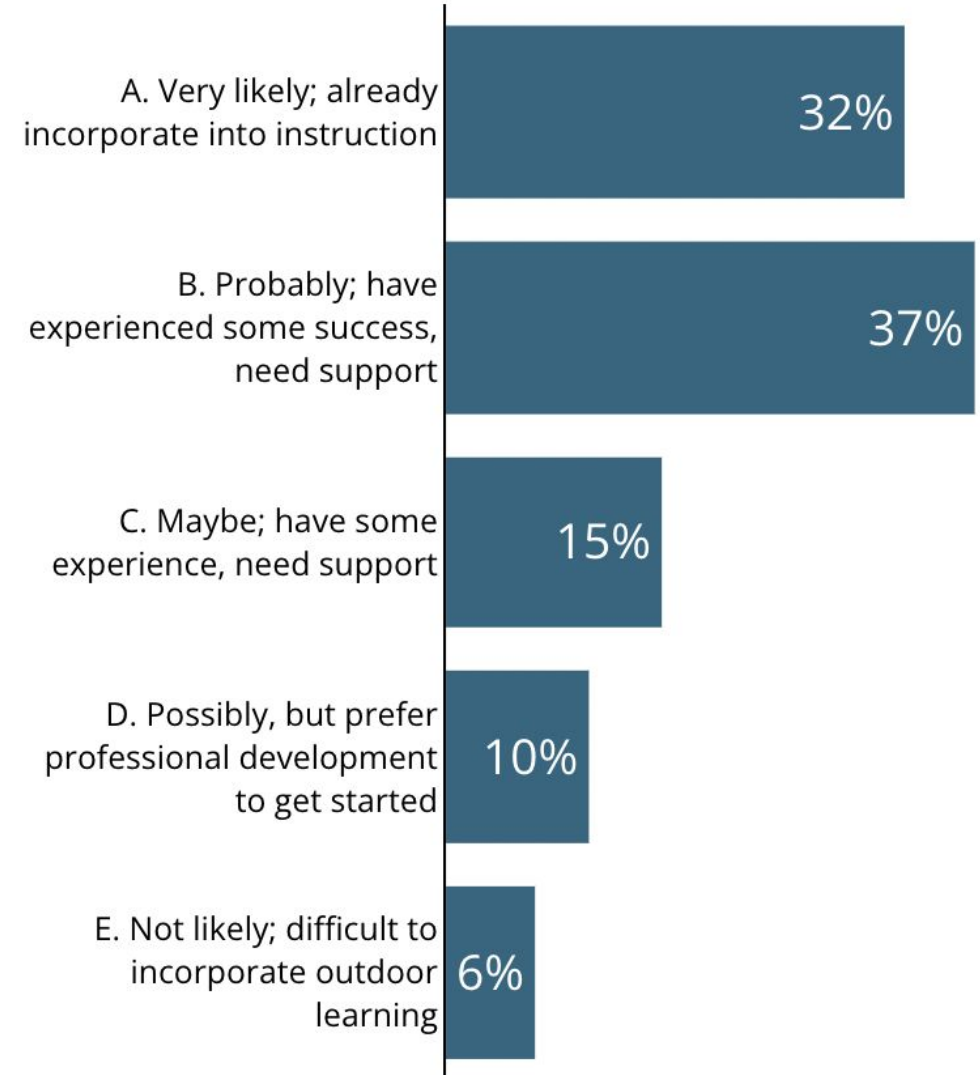
Findings

K-12 Schools | Outdoor Learning - Integration



When asked **how likely teachers are to integrate** outdoor learning into their instruction:

- **32%** already incorporate outdoor learning into instruction
- **62%** indicated interest, but need support
- **Only 6%** are not likely to incorporate outdoor learning



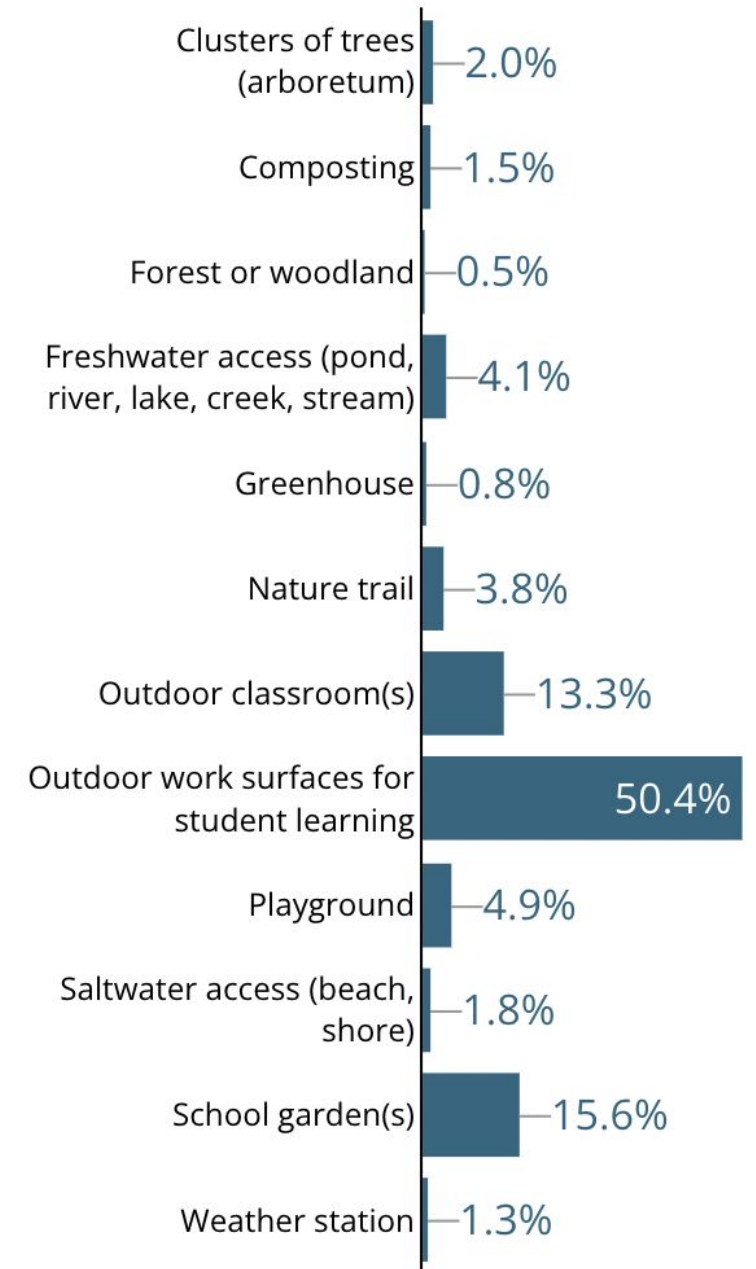
Findings

K-12 Schools | Outdoor Learning - Amenities

When ask which **outdoor amenities** were used in outdoor learning:

- **50.4%** - outdoor work surfaces for student learning
- **15.6%** - school garden
- **13.3%** - outdoor classroom

Of those who indicated that they have an outdoor classroom on their campus, **75% of educators said they use it.**



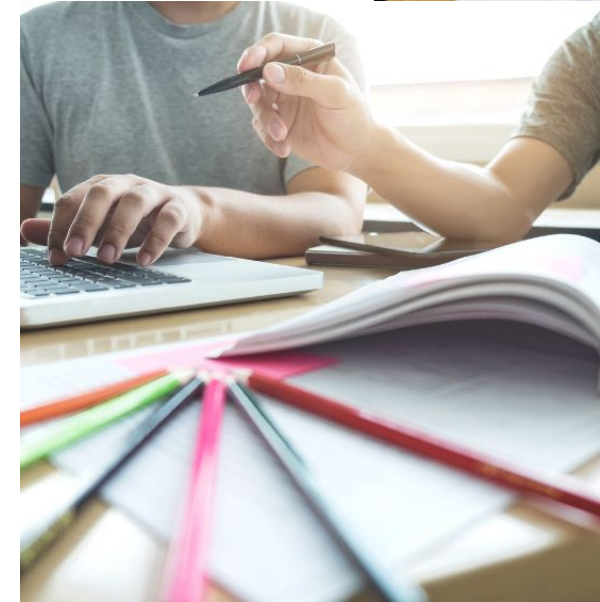
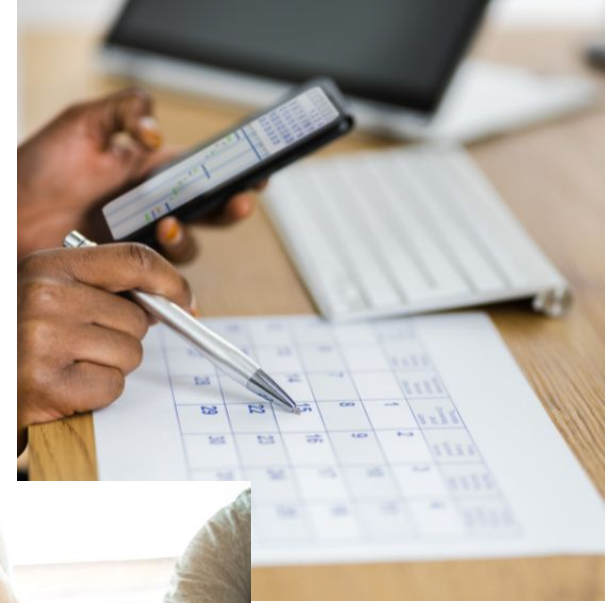
Findings

K-12 Schools | Outdoor Learning - Barriers



Top barriers to on campus outdoor learning:

- **Logistics** (scheduling, time, distance, staging and clean up) - **24.9%**
- Alignment to standards - **17.4%**
- Maintenance of outdoor spaces - **13.5%**
- Lack of outdoor learning spaces, amenities or improvements - **11.6%**
- Administration support - **6.2%**



Findings

K-12 Schools | Outdoor Learning - Resources Needed



Features and **resources that would help to incorporate (or increase) outdoor learning** into the instruction

- Available work surfaces or tables - **66%**
- Available shade - **60%**
- Available seating - **59%**
- **Lesson Supplies** - **52%**
- **Teaching materials** - **50%**
- **Best practices for teaching outdoors** - **44%**
- **Professional Development** - **40%**
- Raised beds or gardens - **40%**
- Available green space - **38%**
- Maintenance support - **37%**
- Partnerships - **35%**
- Examples and success stories - **31%**
- Staffing or volunteer support - **29%**

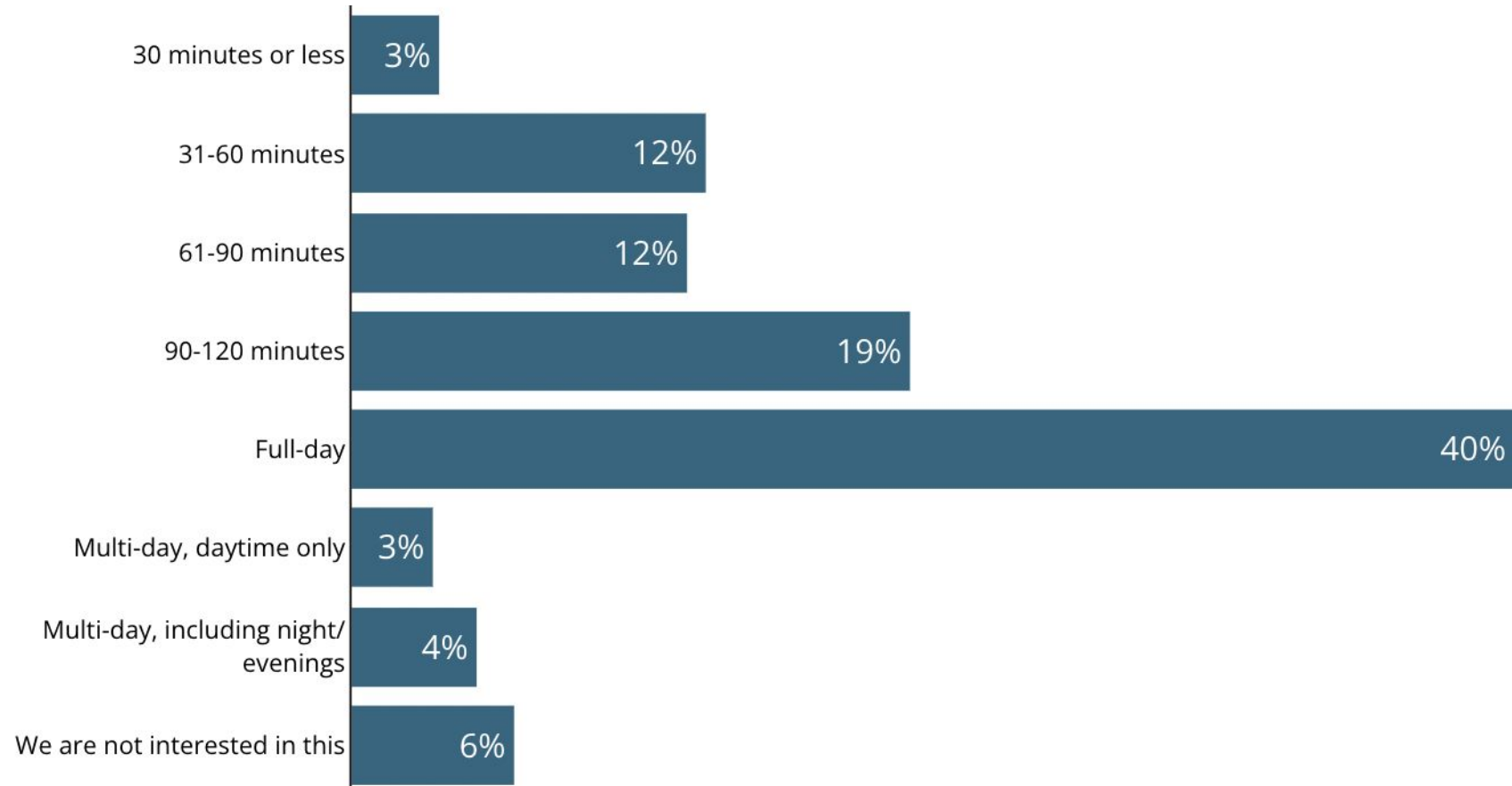
Findings

K-12 Schools | Field Trips

48% of teachers have taken field trips focused on EE or learning outdoors.



When they take an environmental education field trip, **what would be the ideal length of time for their student's experience?**



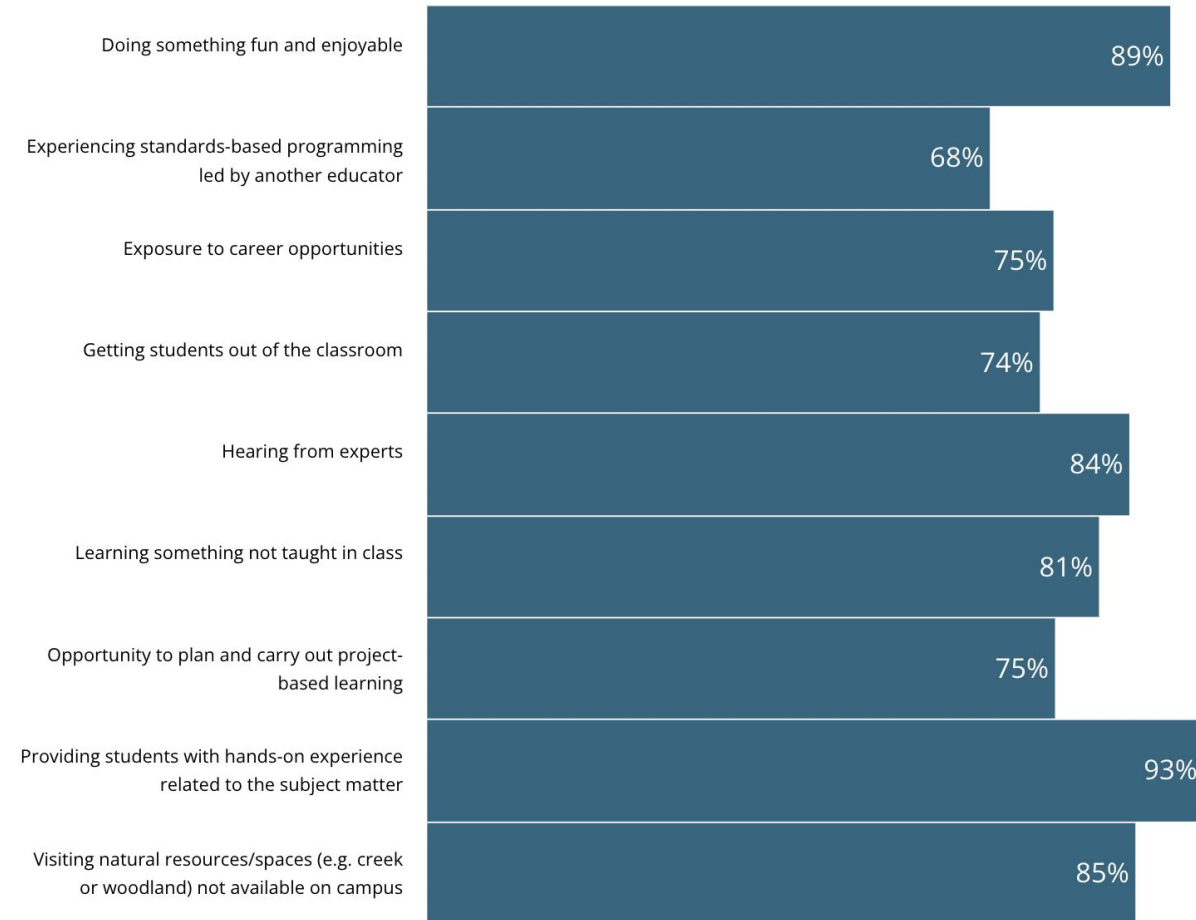
Findings

K-12 Schools | Field Trips - Priorities

- Providing students with **hands-on experience** related to the subject matter - **93%**
- Doing something **fun and enjoyable** - **89%**
- Hearing from **experts** - **84%**
- **Visiting natural resources/spaces** not available on campus - **85%**
- Learning something not taught in class - **81%**
- Exposure to **career opportunities** - **75%**
- Opportunity to plan and carry out **project-based learning** - **75%**
- Getting students out of the classroom - **74%**
- Experiencing **standards-based programming** led by another educator - **68%**



When taking your students on field trips, what is your priority?



Findings

K-12 Schools | Field Trips - Limiting Factors



Top limiting factors affecting **teacher's ability to lead outdoor field trips**:

- Transportation Cost - **70%**
- Transportation Availability - **45%**
- Time - **48%**
- Site Fees - **43%**

Findings

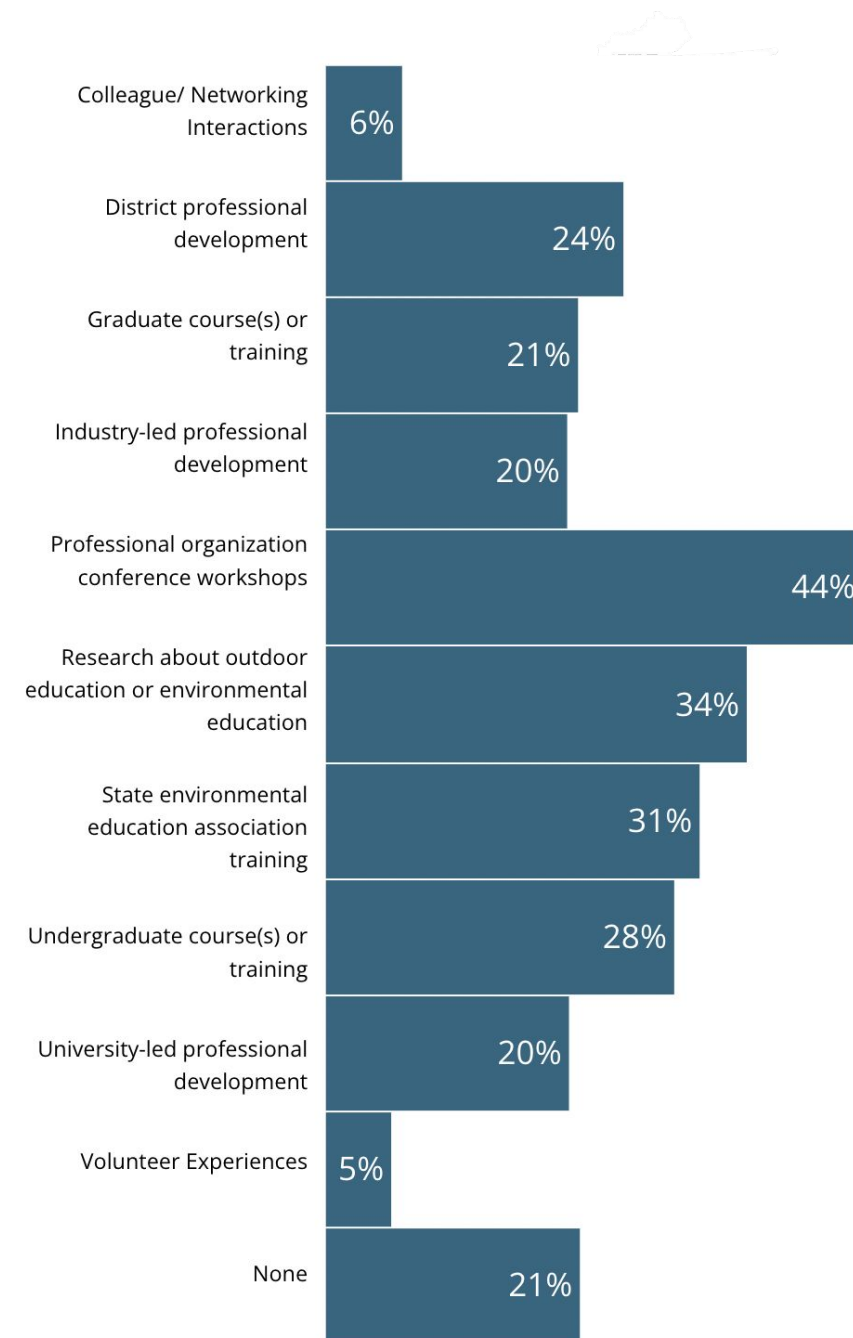
K-12 Schools | Professional Learning - Sources

What professional development/learning have you **participated in about outdoor education or environmental education?**

- Professional organization conference workshops - **44%**
- Research about outdoor education or environmental education - **34%**
- State environmental education association training - **31%**
- Undergraduate courses or training - **28%**
- District professional development - **24%**
- University-led professional development - **20%**
- Graduate courses or training - **21%**
- Industry-led professional development - **20%**



21% indicated they have had **no professional development**



Findings

K-12 Schools | Professional Learning - Most Effective



What environmental education or outdoor education **professional development/learning** has been **the most effective for you** and why?

- Field-based/ In-person, hands-on - **39%**
- Curriculum Training
(Project WET/WILD/Learning Tree) - **29%**
- Training, workshop, and/or conference opportunity - **28%**
- Federal, State or NGO sponsored - **28%**
- Relevant and applicable resources provided (supplies, lessons, tools) - **25%**
- Collaborated with subject matter experts and colleagues - **15%**
- Collaboration and Networking - **11%**
- Online, on-demand (synchronous/asynchronous) learning opportunities - **6%**



Findings

K-12 Schools | Professional Learning - Topics of Interest



What environmental education professional development/learning related **topics** would you be **most interested** in?

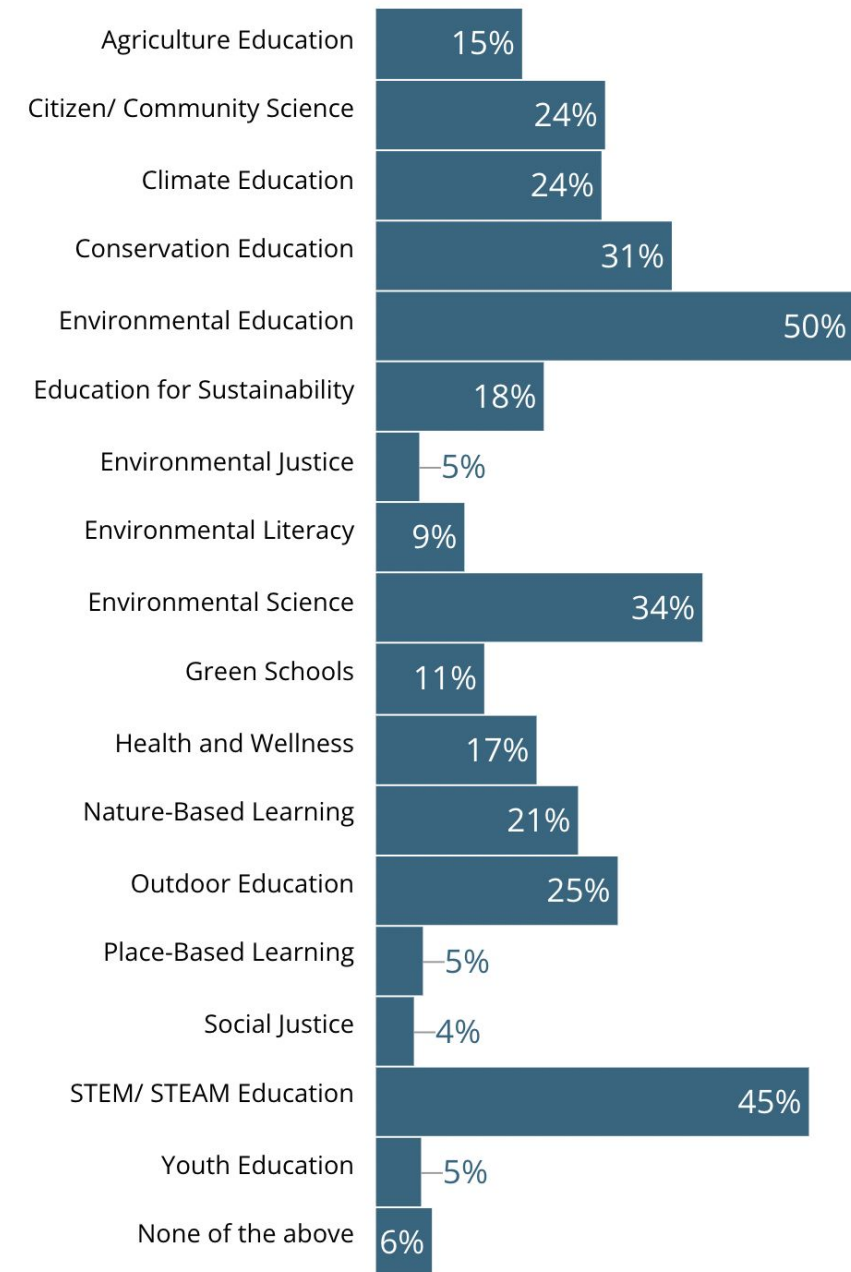
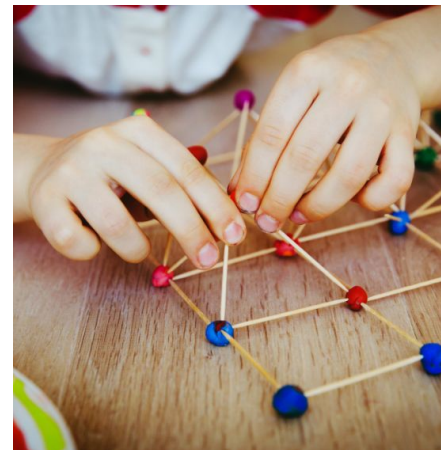
- Outdoor Learning (best practices, benefits, pedagogy) - **26%**
- Gardening (indoor-outdoor) - **26%**
- Age-appropriate and locally relevant lesson ideas and hands-on activities - **25%**
- Sustainability - **19%**
- EE Best practices and strategies - **19%**
- Locally relevant plants and animals - **16%**
- Natural resource management - **16%**
- Ecology (non-specific) - **15%**
- Instructional design (interdisciplinary blending EE into curriculum) - **15%**
- Renewable Energy - **15%**
- Aligning lessons with standards (NGSS, State-level) - **14%**
- Recycling - **14%**
- Ecology (wildlife) - **14%**
- Climate science - **13%**
- Nature-based solutions and restoration practices - **13%**

Findings

K-12 Schools | Integration of EE - Common Terms

The **terms** that teachers use most often include:

- Environmental education - **50%**
- STEM/STEAM - **45%**
- Environmental Science - **34%**
- Conservation Education - **31%**
- Outdoor Education - **25%**
- Climate Education - **24%**
- Citizen / Community Science - **24%**
- Nature Based Learning - **21%**



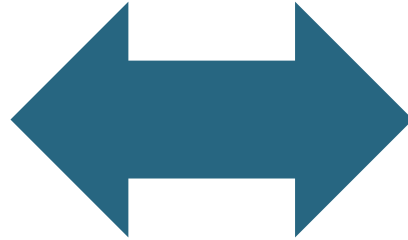
Findings

Comparing Terms | Schools & Providers



The top **terms** that teachers use most often include:

- Environmental Education
- STEM/STEAM
- Environmental Science
- Conservation Education
- Outdoor Education



The top **terms** that EE Providers use most often include:

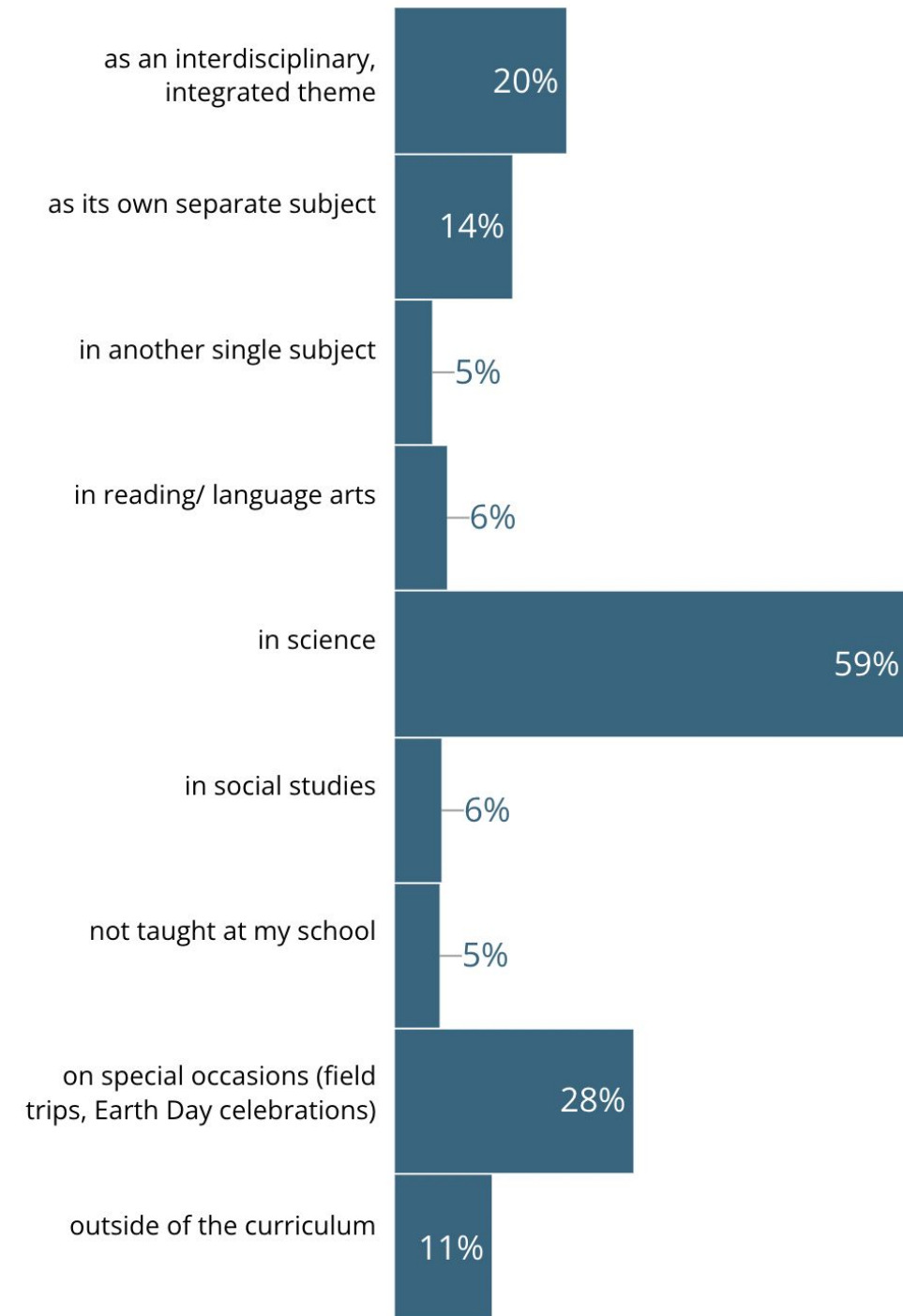
- Environmental Education
- Outdoor Education
- Conservation Education
- Nature-Based Learning
- STEM/STEAM

Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration

Environmental education in my school is taught _____.

- **59% of teachers** indicate environmental education is taught in **science**
- **Only 20%** see it as **interdisciplinary**

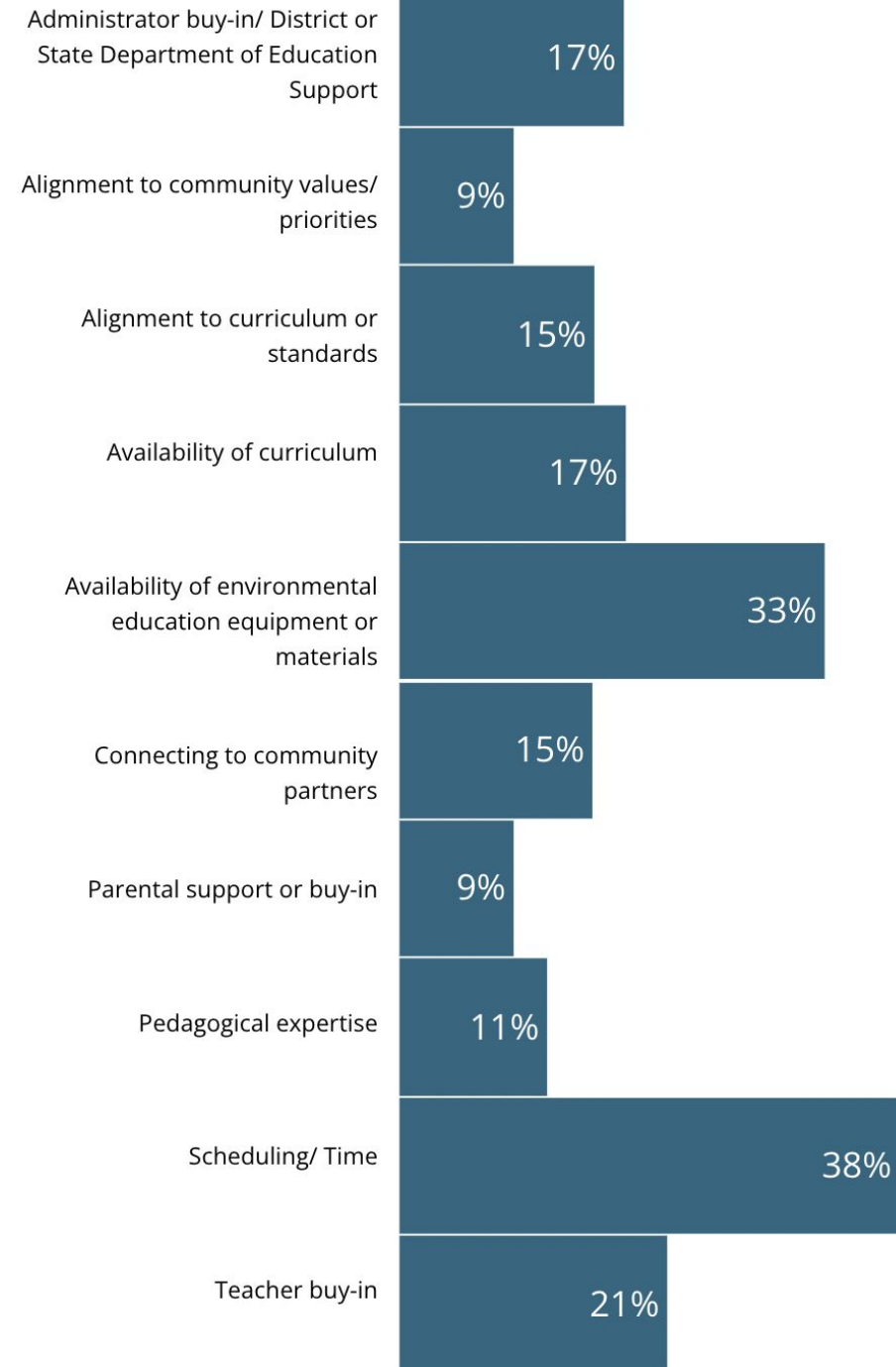
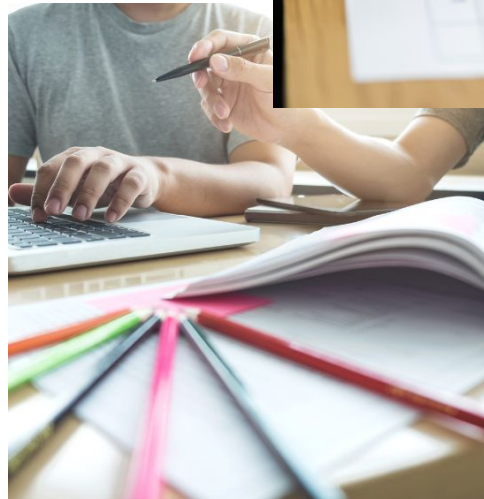


Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Barriers

The **top barriers** to integrating environmental education into the curriculum are:

- Scheduling/Time
- Availability of EE equipment or materials
- Teacher/Administrator buy-in
- Availability of curriculum

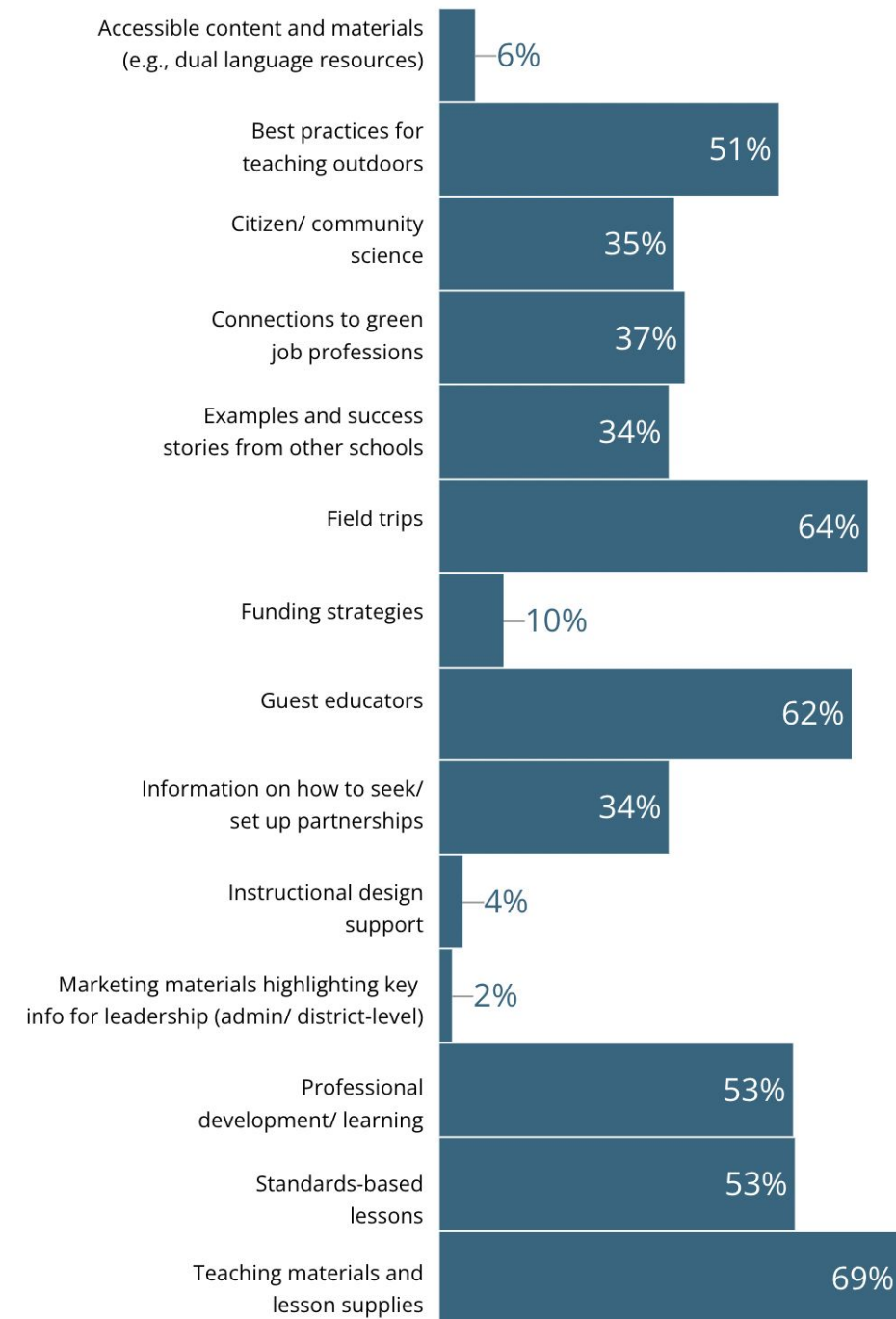


Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Tools Needed

Most valuable tools for increasing environmental education in the classroom include:

- Teaching materials and lesson supplies
- Field trips
- Guest educators
- Standards-based lessons
- Professional development
- Best practices for teaching outdoors

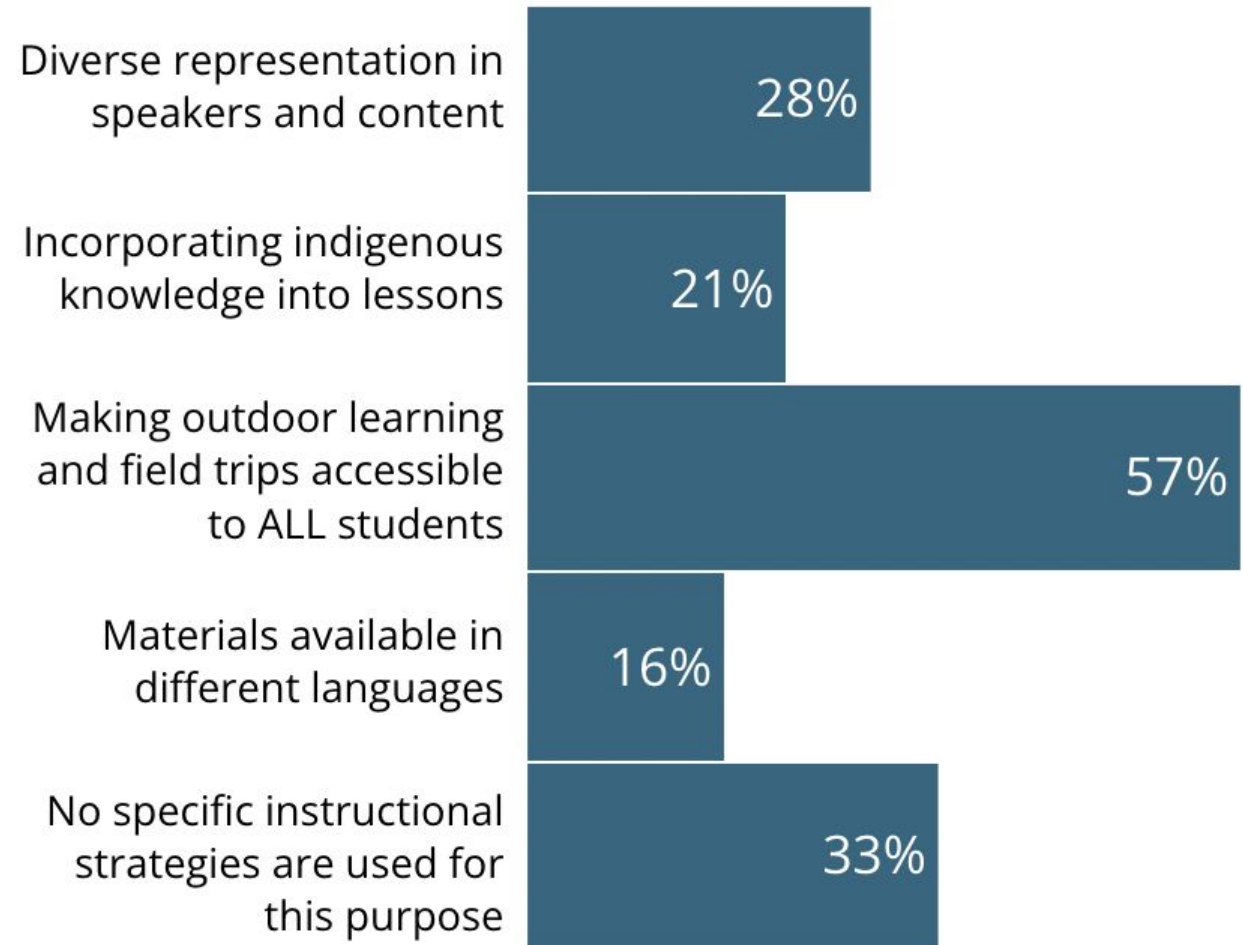


Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Inclusivity



Instructional strategies used to make **environmental education more inclusive:**



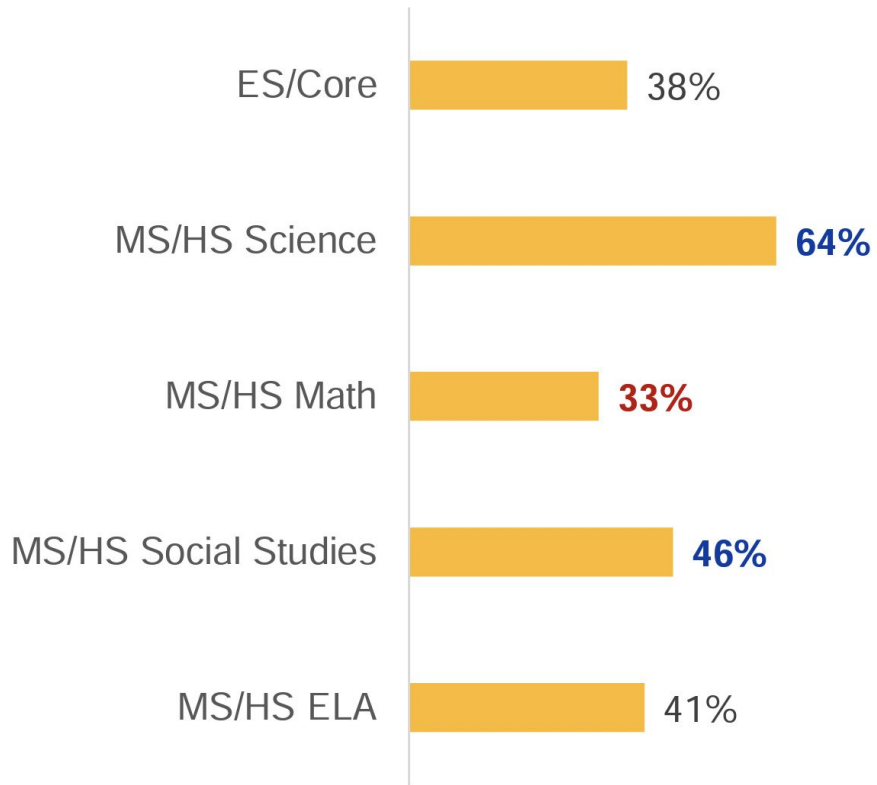
Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Climate Literacy

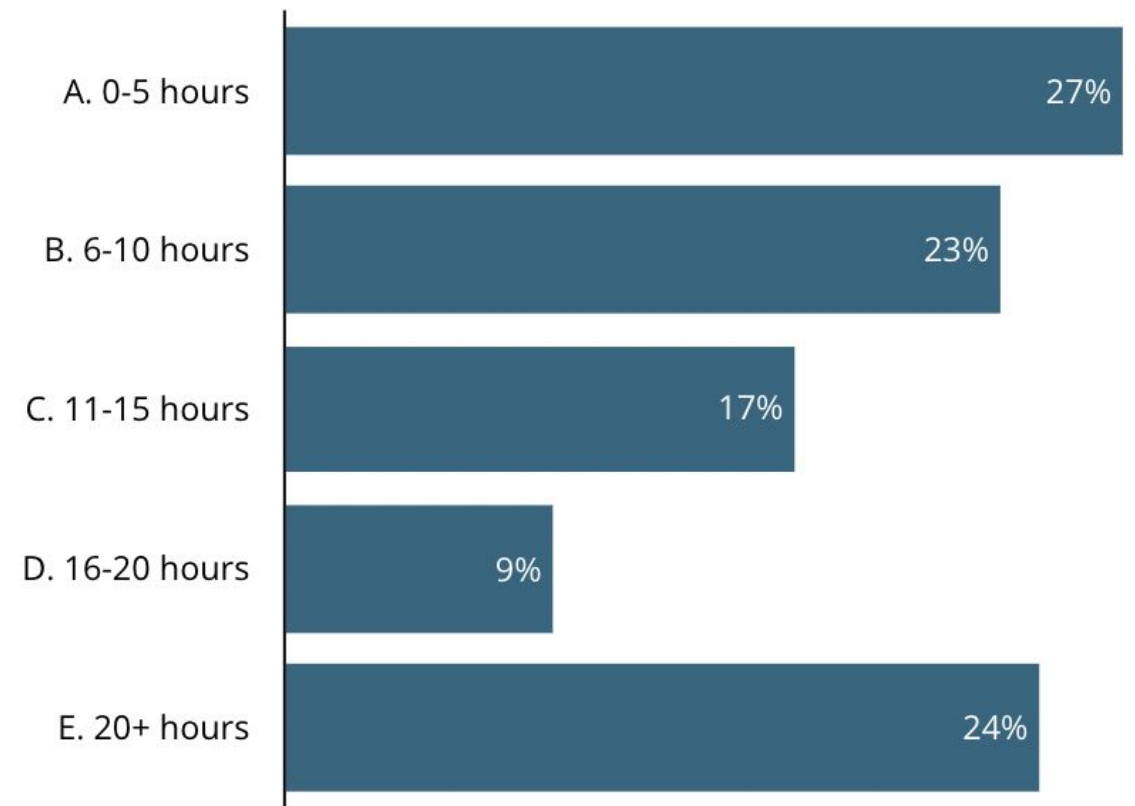


Personally Teach About Climate Change

among teachers only



Percent of teachers indicating the average numbers of hours spent during the school year on teaching climate science.



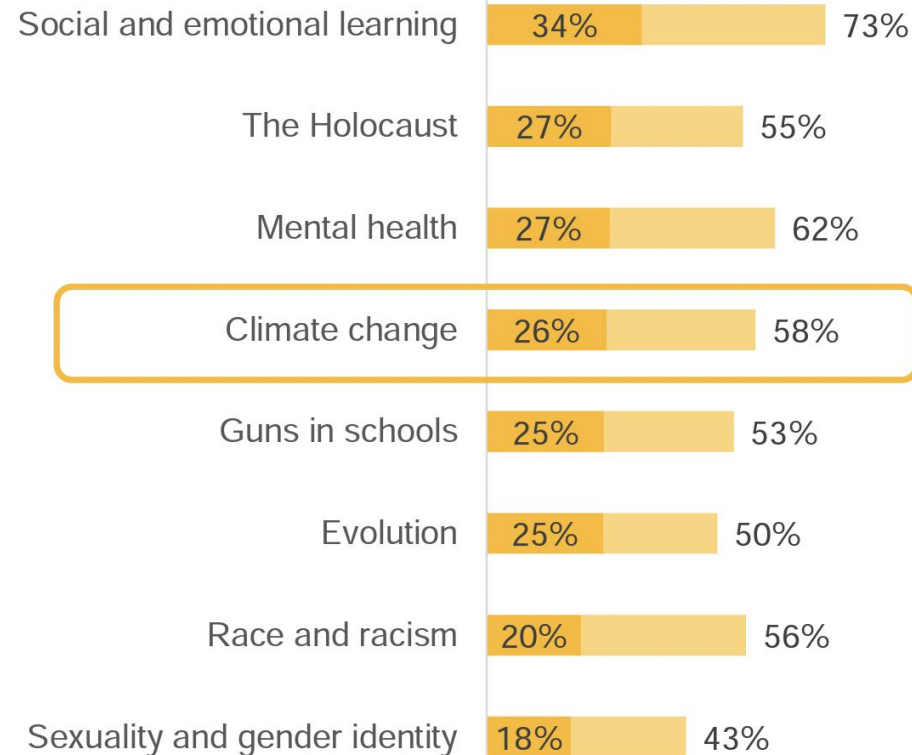
Findings

State of Climate Change 2022 | NAAEE Survey of Educators



Confidence Addressing the Following Topics with Students

Extremely Confident Somewhat Confident
among teachers only



% Extremely/Somewhat Confident

Most Confident

Urban Teachers	73%
Teach AP	72%
MS/HS Science	71%
<10 Years in Education	67%

Least Confident

Elementary Teachers	47%
Suburban	47%

Red=statistically significantly lower than comparison group
Blue=statistically significantly higher than comparison group

Only 21% of Teachers feel “very informed” about climate change



The State of Climate Change Education: Findings
from a National Survey of Educators, NAAEE 2022

Findings

State of Climate Change 2022 | NAAEE Survey of Educators



Top 3 reasons **why teachers are not teaching about climate literacy** per NAAEE and EdWeek:

1. Teachers aren't **confident** in their ability to teach climate change.
2. Teachers don't have enough high-quality, relevant **resources**.
3. Teachers don't always feel **supported** by their administrators or the community.

EdWeek Research Center survey found that about **three-quarters of teachers say they have never received any professional training or education on climate change** or how to teach it.



QUESTIONS?

Explore the Data

southeastee.org/landscape



Identify gaps and barriers to access



Build collective impact



Find EE programs near you



Join new EE networks



Explore demographics in your state



Connect with fellow educators



Filter and export data that's meaningful to you



Use it as a model for your own region



And so much more!

RESOURCES

Resource Hub

southeastee.org/landscape



EE Providers Dashboard

Explore what EE providers and programs are available in your local area.

[View the Dashboard](#)



K-12 Schools Dashboard

Take a closer look at what teachers and administrators need.

[View the Dashboard](#)



EE Providers Climate, Equity, & Education Map

Add education, environment, and community layers to our map of providers.

[View the Map](#)



Learn More Tutorials & Videos

Get to know each of the tools and resources available to fully explore the landscape analysis.

[Learn More](#)



Resource Hub

Field Trends Dashboard | K-12 Schools



EE Schools Dashboard

About

Schools & Providers

Climate Justice

Schools & Teachers

Outdoor Learning

Field Trips

Professional Developm...

EE Integration

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
FIELD TRENDS
DASHBOARD
K-12 SCHOOLS

SEEA

USE THE FILTERS TO NARROW THE RESULTS.

GEOGRAPHY FILTERS

State

County, State

SCHOOL FILTERS

Type of School

Grade level(s) at the school

Grade level(s) taught by Teacher

% Students on Reduced Lunch

Title I School?

Disadvantaged Community

Discipline taught by teacher

OTHER FILTERS

Confidence - Providing EE

Require Outdoor/ Env Learning

Environmental theme or focus?

Reset Filters

Download

SCHOOLS and PROVIDERS

K-12 Formal Institutes
PUBLIC and PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Schools/ Institutions
617

Environmental Education
PROVIDERS

Organizations
718

View the EE Provider
Dashboard

EE PROVIDER FILTERS

Services and or Resources

Themes

Program Location

Program Timing

Program Audience(s)

Available Language(s)

Across the southeast, 617 schools and 718
EE providers participated in this survey.
Participating schools and providers can be
found on the map below.

This is one of two dashboards available. View the EE provider dashboard
using the blue button to the right. The provider filters to the right can be
used to filter the map results below to find EE providers that meet your
specific criteria.

KANSAS
MISSOURI
OKLAHOMA
ARKANSAS
MISSISSIPPI
LOUISIANA
TEXAS
COAHUILA
NUEVO LEON
TAMAULIPAS

KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
FLORIDA

WEST VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA
CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA

DELAWARE
Bermuda

Gulf of Mexico

The Baham

Type

EE Program

School

Data Last Updated: 10/9/2023 1:19:42 PM

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Resource Hub

Field Trends Dashboard | EE Providers



Provider Dashboard

About

Providers & Schools

Provider Details

Programs

Program Audiences

JEDI

Demographics

Income Sources

Employee Benefits

Professional Developm...

Climate Justice

Climate Science

Evaluation

Terms Used

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
FIELD TRENDS
DASHBOARD
PROVIDERS

USE THE FILTERS TO NARROW THE RESULTS.

ORGANIZATION FILTERS

State

Organization Type

Service Area

Rural Communities

Disadvantaged Community

Staff % BIPOC

Senior Staff % BIPOC

Board % BIPOC

PROGRAM FILTERS

Program Location(s)

Program Audience(s)

Program Timing

Program Language(s)

Services/ Resources

Themes

Academic Standards

Reset Filters

Want to add your efforts to this dashboard?

Download

Add Your Efforts

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
PROVIDER DETAILS

Want to know more about the numerous environmental education providers who took the time to participate in this project? Check out their profiles below. Find organizations that fit your specific needs. Filter the data using the toolbar on the left. For example, selecting the state filter will allow you to see only organizations from a specific state.

Use the filters on the left to narrow your data view.

Search for an EE Provider Enter a value

Keyboard shortcuts Map data ©2023 Google, INEGI Terms of Use

Students/ Youth Served Annually (AVG)

9,090

Educators/ Admin Served Annually (AVG)

497

Other Participants Served Annually (AVG)

40,713

1000 Friends of Florida

308 N Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

WEBSITE

Building Better Communities and Saving Special Places

12,000 Year History Park Working Group

1800 12th Street, Cayce, South Carolina 29033

WEBSITE

Commemorate and educate on the natural resources and cultural environment of 12,000 years of history in the SC Midlands and its role in the expansion of South Carolina and the nation.

2C Mississippi

116 Summer Lake Dr, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

WEBSITE

We are dedicated to teaching about climate change science, the threats that we and the rest of the world are facing, and to inspiring and empowering all Mississippians to act.

2nd Nature TREC

865 Blue Ridge Rd, Black Mountain, North Carolina 28711

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center

30945 5 Rivers Blvd, Spanish Fort,

A.D. Henderson University School

777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, Florida

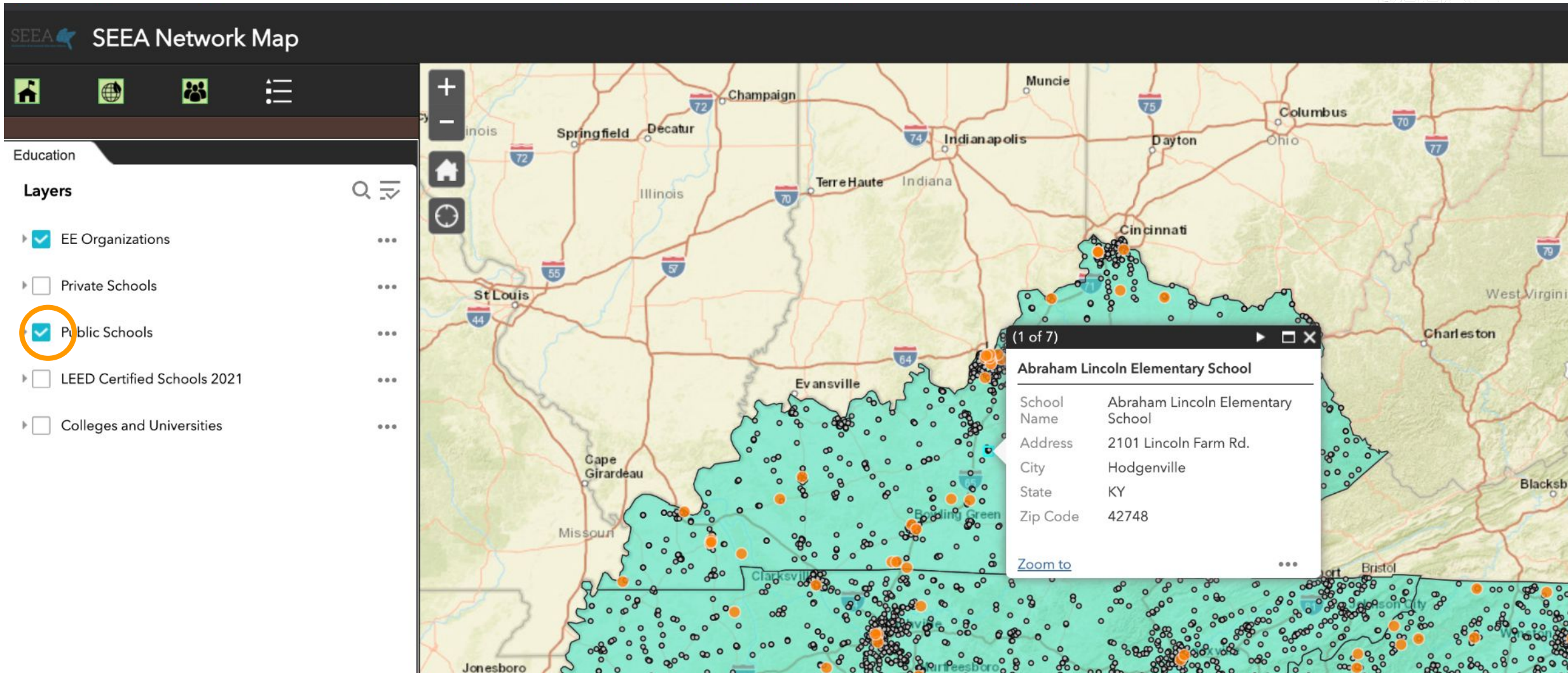
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SEE A



Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map

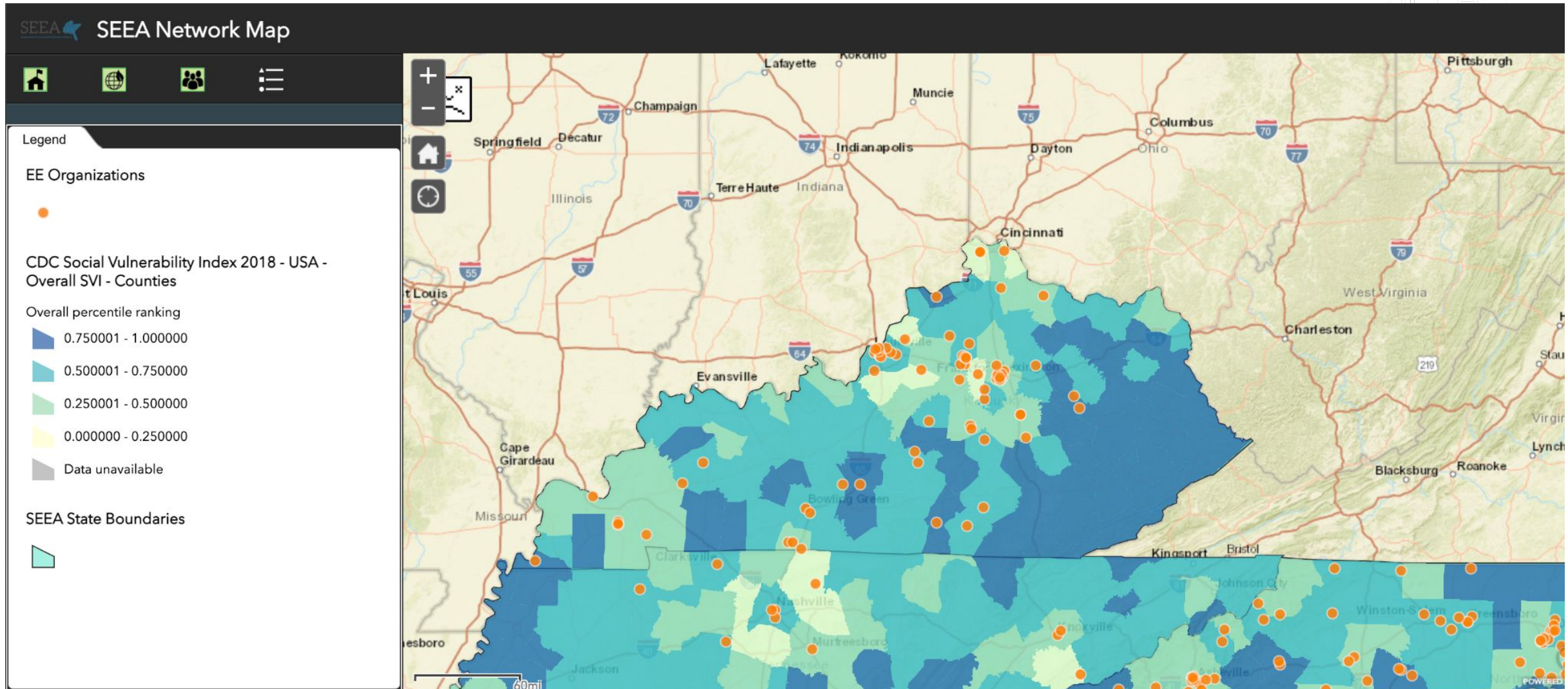


Climate, Equity, and Education Map



Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map



Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map



NOW WHAT?

Resulting Resources

eeGuidance

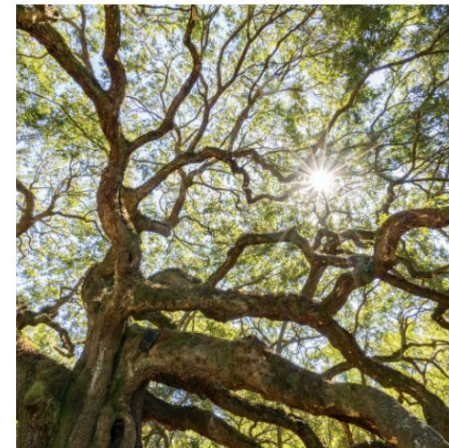
Equitable Pay and Hiring

Adopt more inclusive hiring practices and address inequities in compensation and benefits packages to make our field more equitable, welcoming and sustainable.



southeastee.org/eeguidance

eeGuidance
*for Equitable Pay and Hiring
in Environmental Education*



Resulting Resource

eeGuidance

Collecting Demographic Information

As we work toward a more equitable field of environmental education, having more comprehensive demographic data is crucial.



southeastee.org/eeguidance

eeGuidance for Collecting Demographic Information



Resulting Resources

eeGuidance

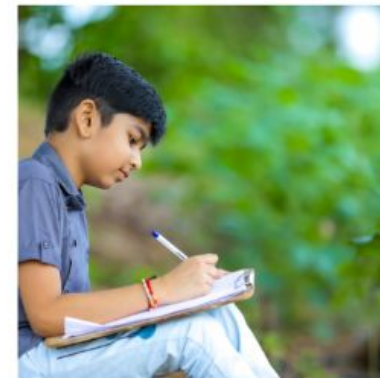
Evaluation

This eeGuidance serves to demystify the evaluation process and improve programs by sharing links to resources, sample evaluation questions and real-world case studies to show how others have used these strategies to inform, fund and improve their programs.



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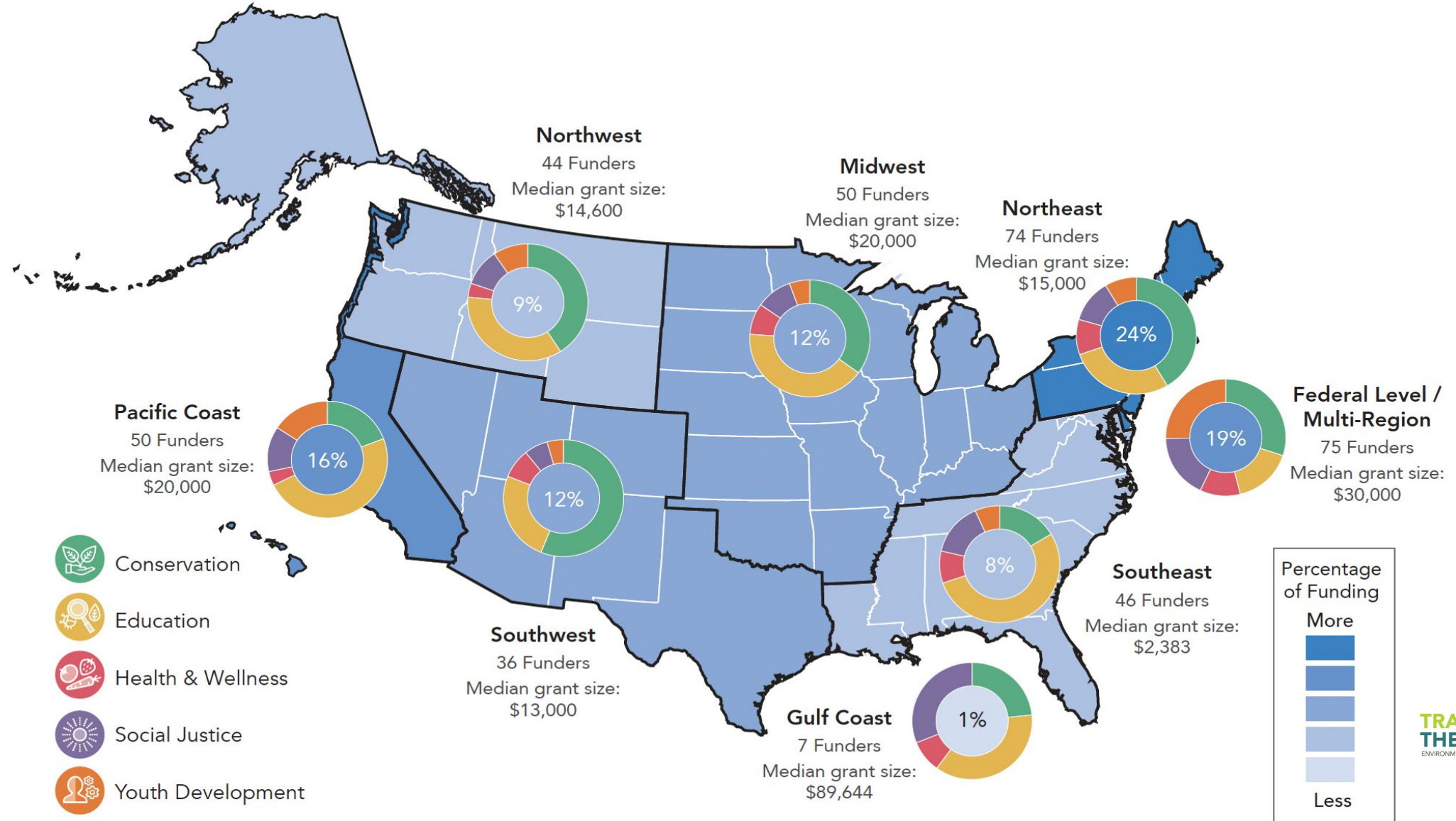
eeGuidance
for Evaluation



SOUTHEASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE
southeastee.org

Moving Forward

Environmental Literacy Giving by Region (2019)



Moving Forward

SEEA Funders' Briefing



FUNDERS' BRIEFING
Sept. 26, 2022 | 3-5 pm ET



Moving Forward

Future Opportunities



QUESTIONS?

Ashley Hoffman
director@kaee.org