SOUTHEASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Landscape ANALYSIS

SEEA

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.

SEEA
Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance

EEAA

leef

EENC

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

kaee
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education

MEEA
MISSISSIPPI ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE

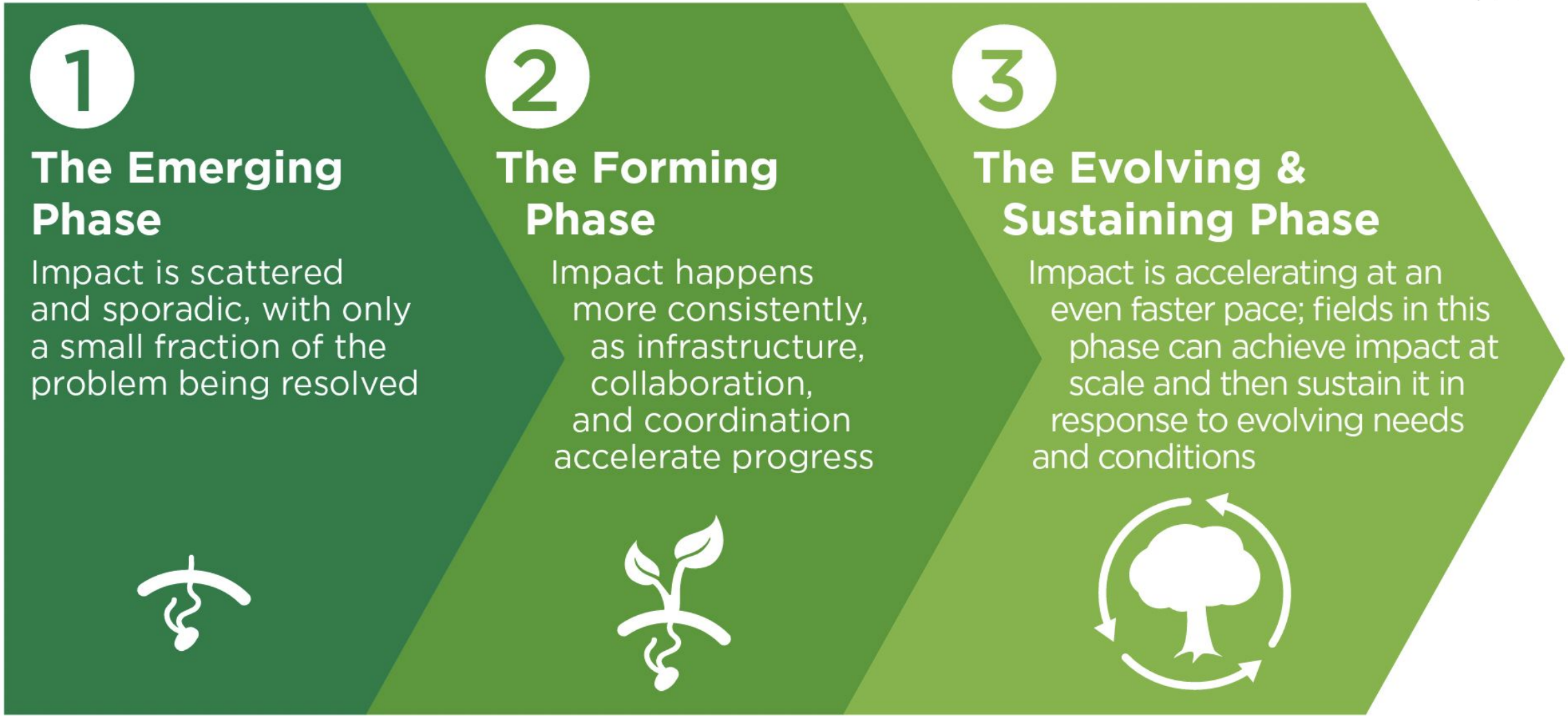
eeasc
Environmental Education Association of South Carolina
www.eeasc.org

TEEA

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

SEEA

Field Building: Lifting All Boats



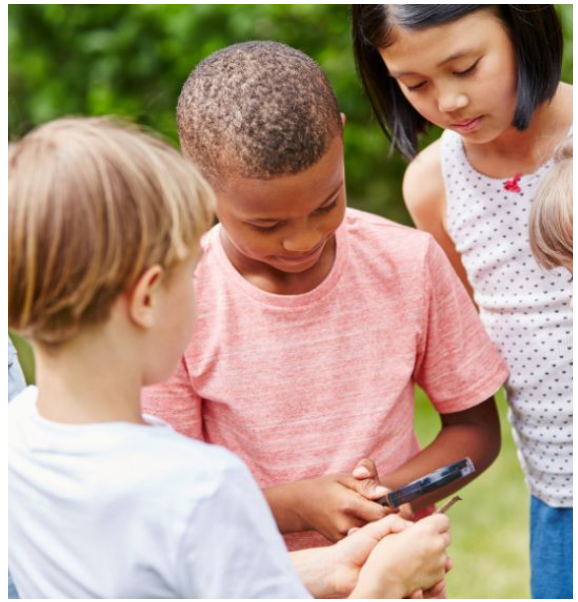
Source: The Bridgespan Group

SEEA

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

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

naaee
North American Association for Environmental Education

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
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 avai
being done in the southe
opportunities for service
efforts toward environm

By participating in this s
state and regional lands
level details will be share

Estimated time to comp

This survey is focused o
you're a teacher or admi
Education in PreK-12 Sc

brittany@kaee.org Switc

Not shared

Next

PreK-12 Schools Survey - 2022/ 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 opportunities in preK-12 schools. By better understanding the important work being done in the southeast, we can identify gaps and barriers to access, as well as opportunities for schools to partner with service providers to advance our collective efforts toward environmental literacy.

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Estimated time to complete: 15 minutes

This survey is focused only on PreK-12 Schools. If your organization is not a school, but provides environmental education programs please take our SEEA: Environmental Education Providers Survey- 2023.

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* Indicates required question

SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

FINDINGS

Findings

Environmental Education Providers

SURVEY REPRESENTATION

EE Providers

718

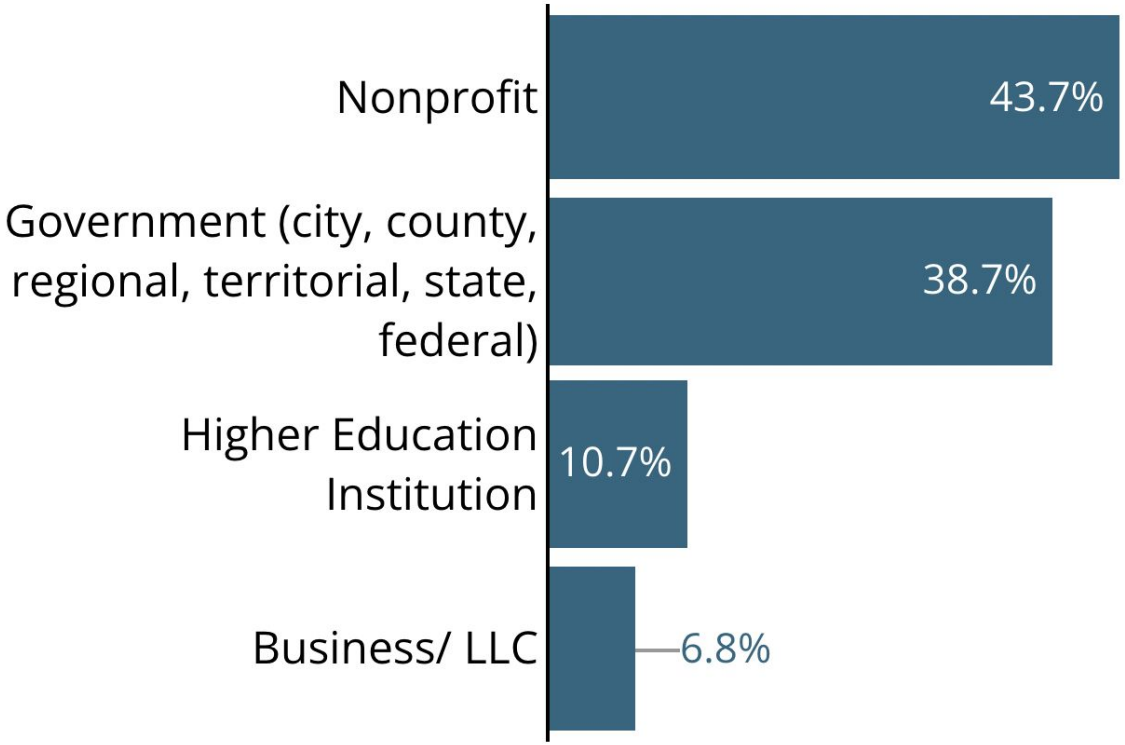
Counties Represented

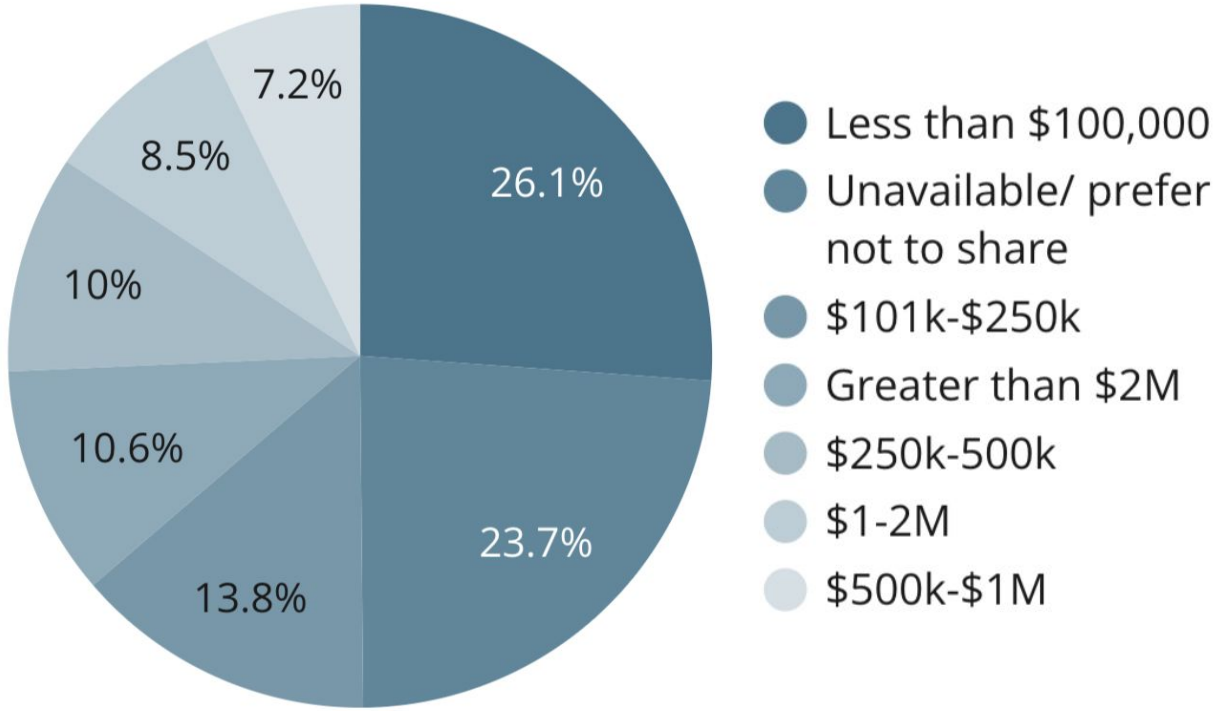
269

Findings

EE Providers | Survey Representation

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

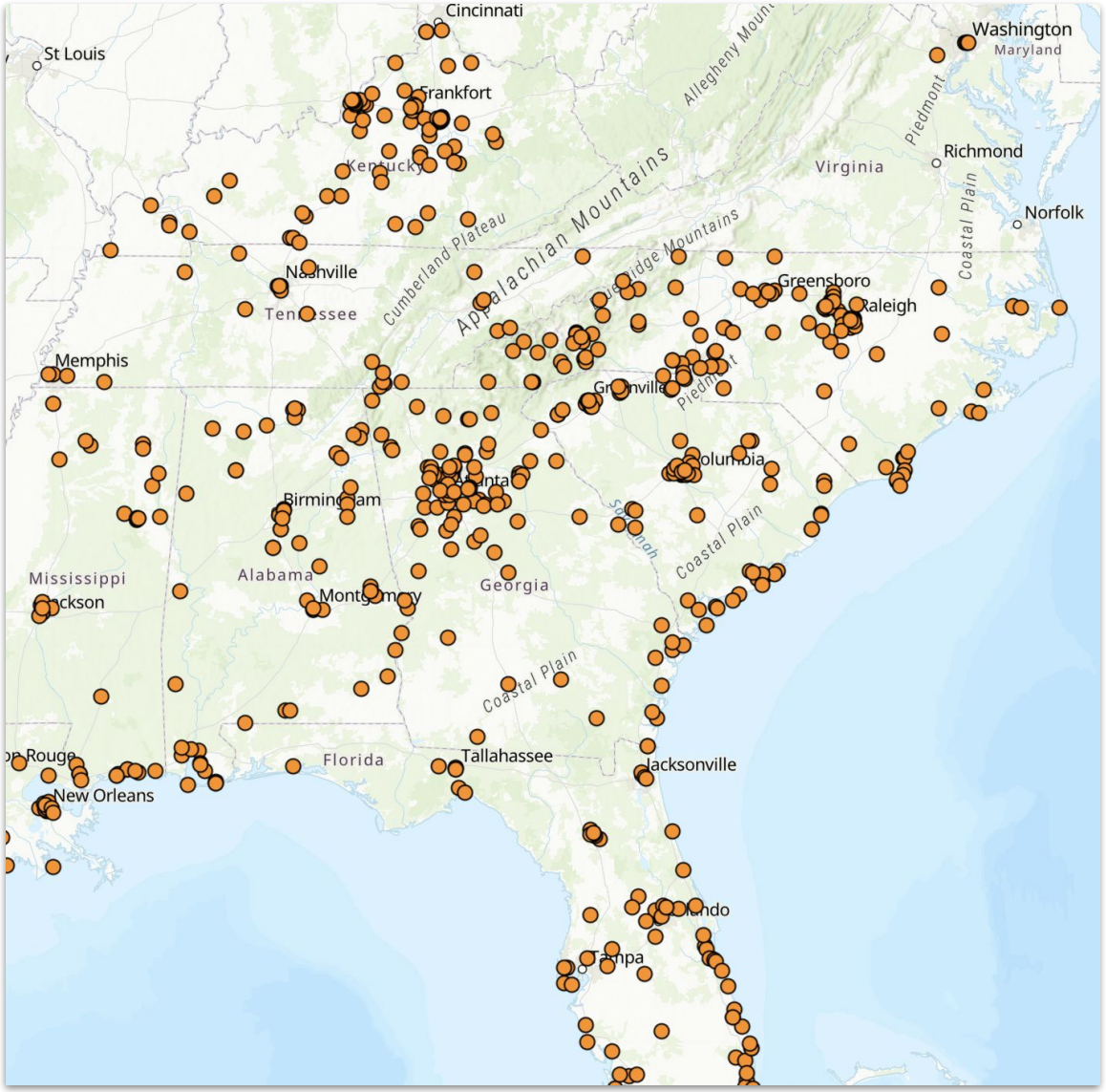




Findings

EE Providers | Geographic Disbursement

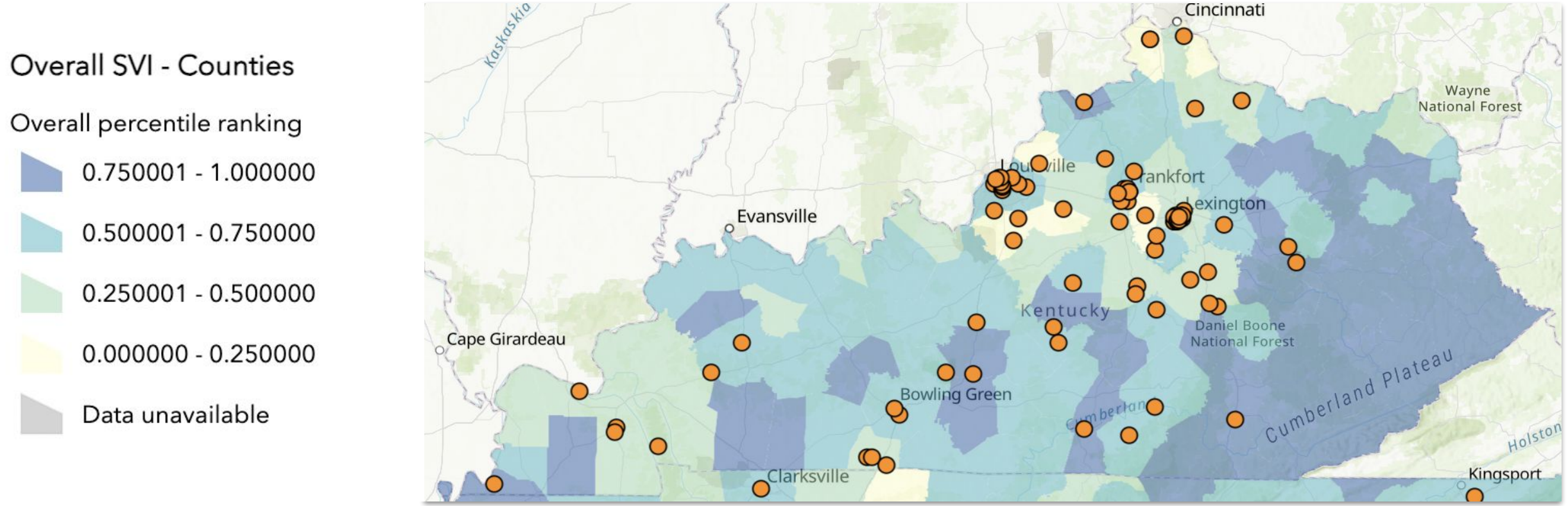
There are **gaps in services** found across the region.



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**.



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.

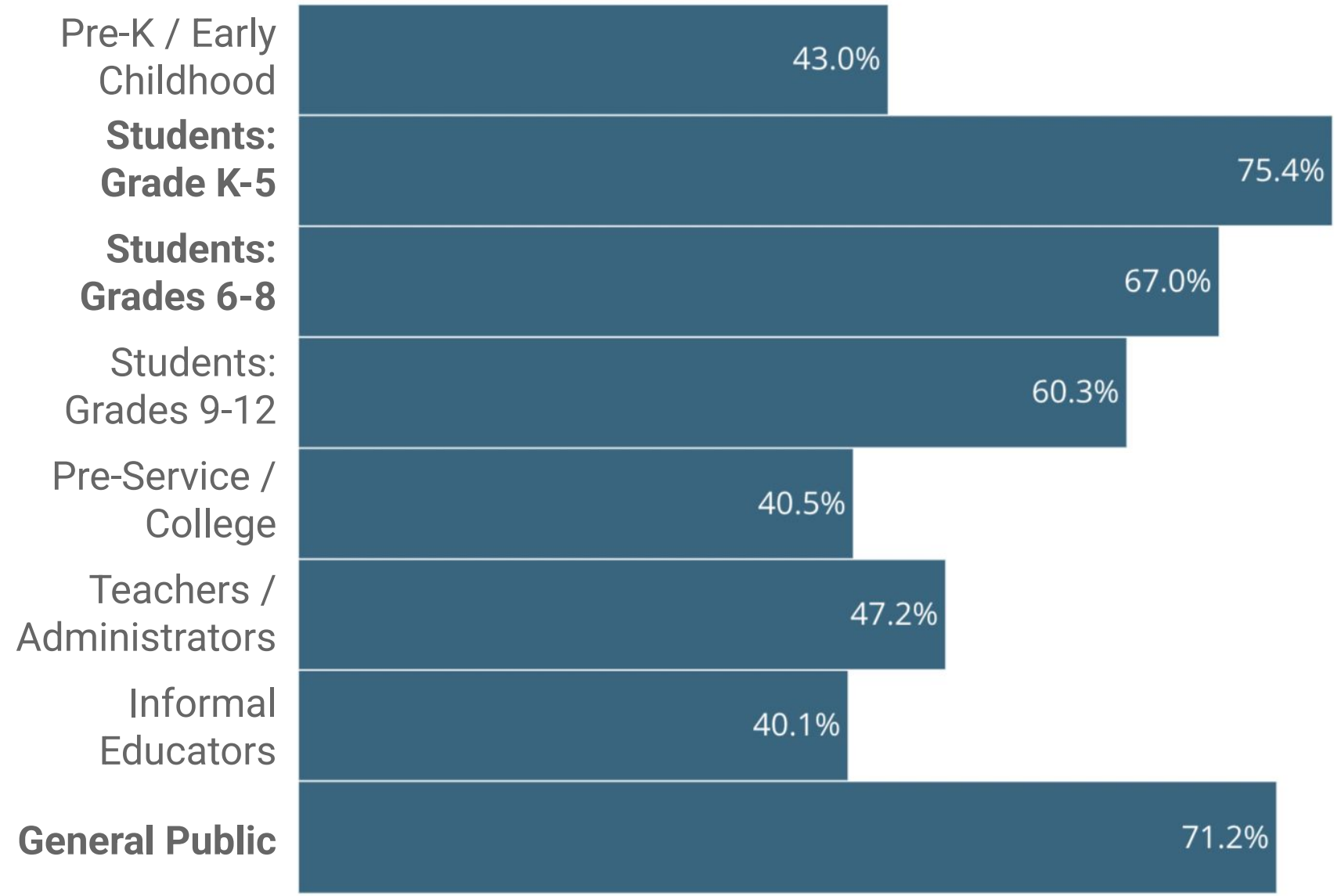
Student Participant	< 1 hr	1 hr	2-3 hrs	4-7 hrs
1 day	8%	**30%**	9%	7%
2-3 days	1%	3%	4%	3%
4-7 days	1%	4%	3%	7%
8-21 days	1%	3%	1%	1%
22-31 days	1%	1%	1%	1%
32-90 days	0%	2%	1%	1%
91+ days	1%	3%	1%	2%

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

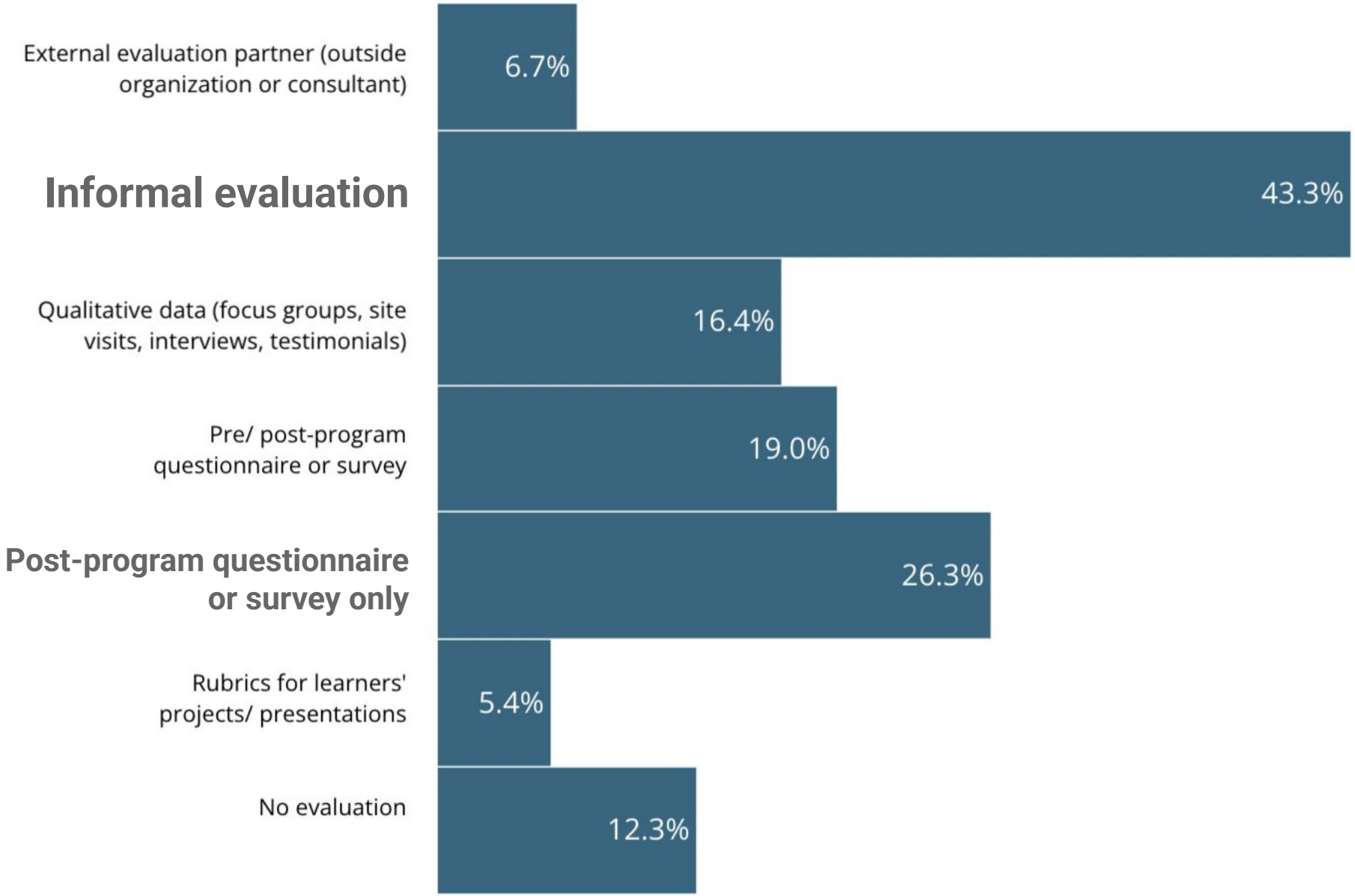
Providers are mostly serving **grades K-5 and the general public**.



Findings

EE Providers | Evaluation

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

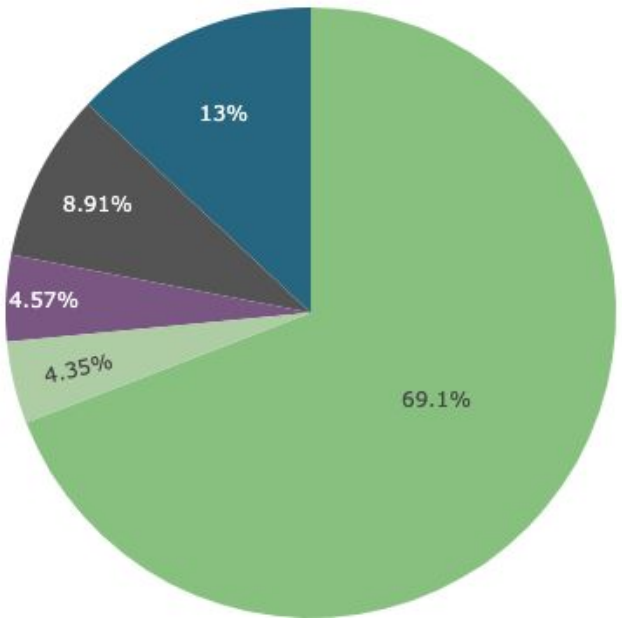


Findings

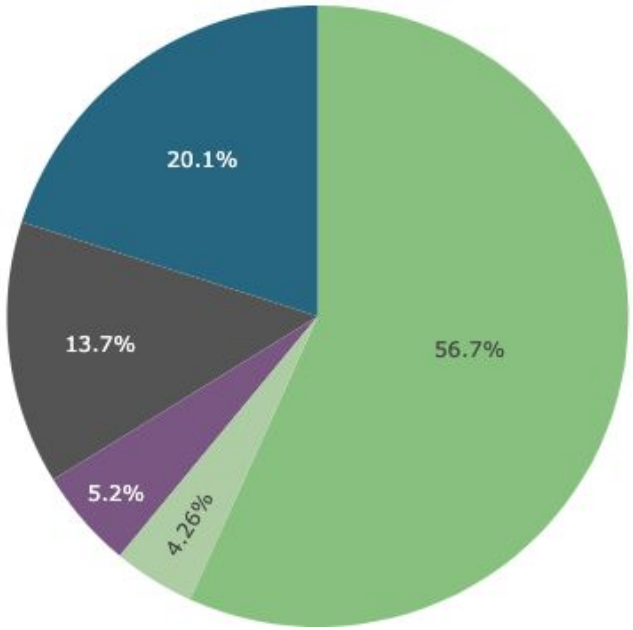
EE Providers | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

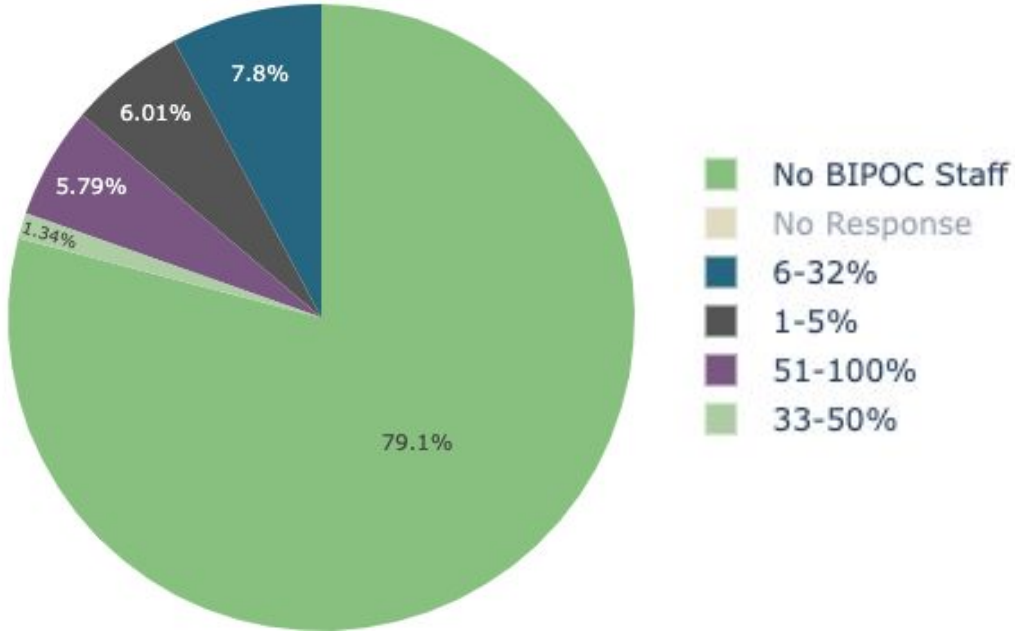
Staff % BIPOC



Senior Staff % BIPOC



Board % BIPOC



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 s**tarting 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

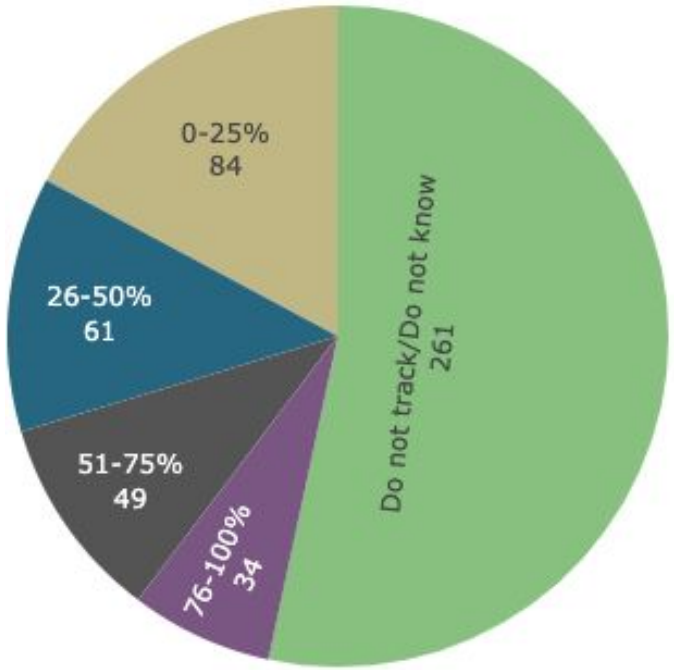
State ▲	Full-Time (Year-Round)	Part-Time (Year-Round)	Temp/ Seasonal	Contractors	Volunteers	Starting Hourly Rate ($)
Alabama	4	1	3	2	30	13.74
Florida	3	2	2	1	233	16.58
Georgia	5	4	3	1	227	14.9
Kentucky	2	1	3	1	56	15.48
Mississippi	2	1	1	2	107	16.01
North Carolina	5	2	4	2	61	13.93
South Carolina	3	1	2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

Findings

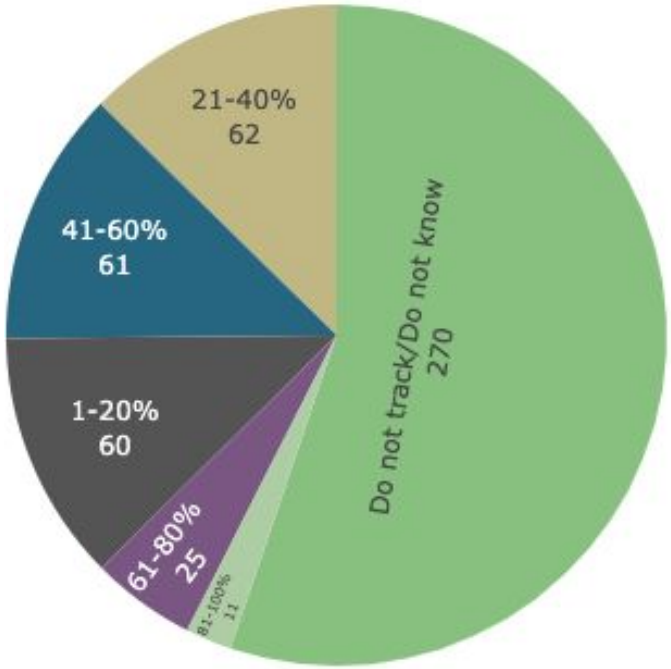
EE Providers | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

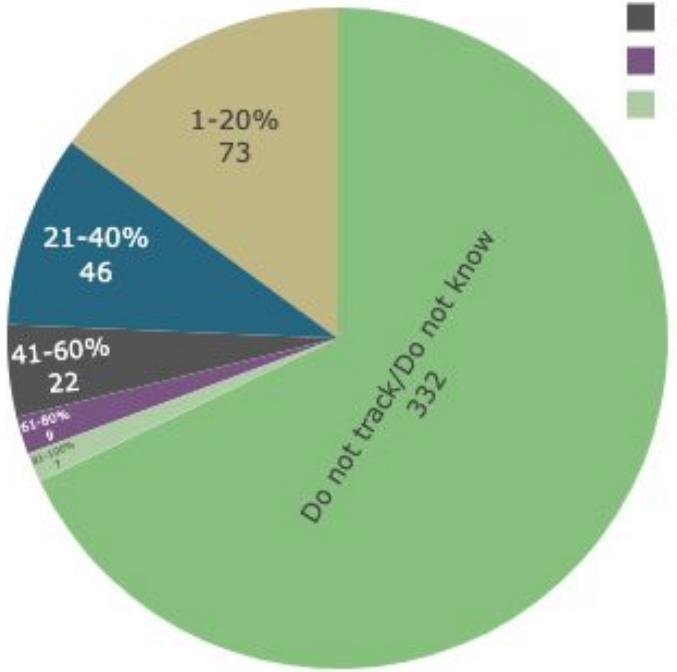
Title I Participants



Percentage of BIPOC Students Served



Percentage of BIPOC Educators Served



SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

QUESTIONS?

Survey Process

PreK-12 Schools Survey - 2022/ 2023

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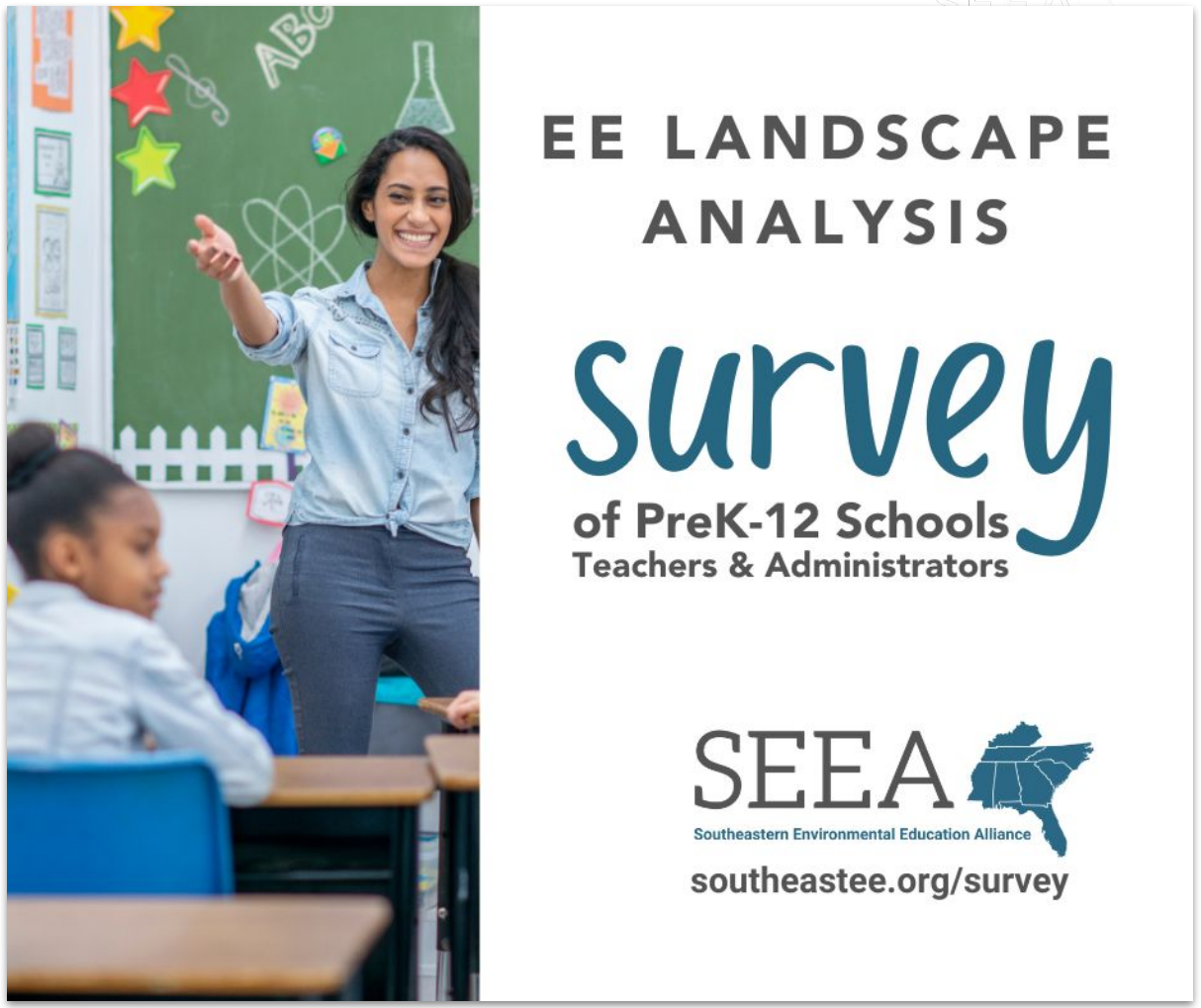


SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

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

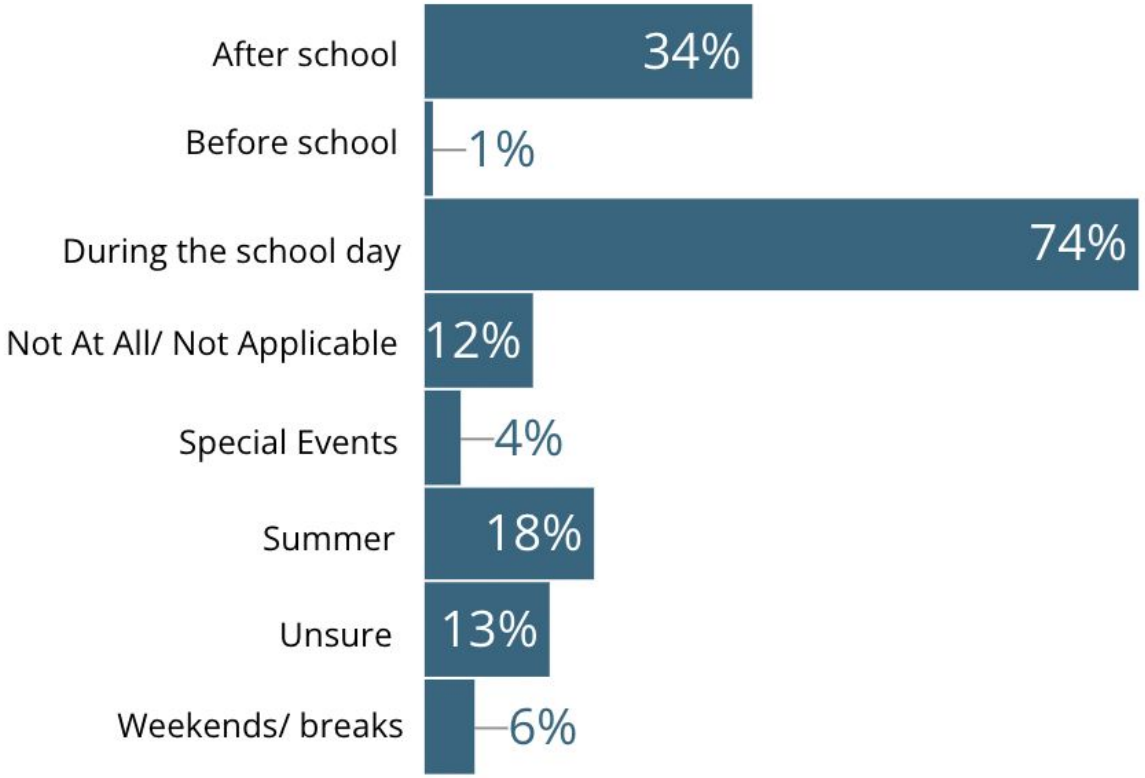
Schools utilizing outdoors

474

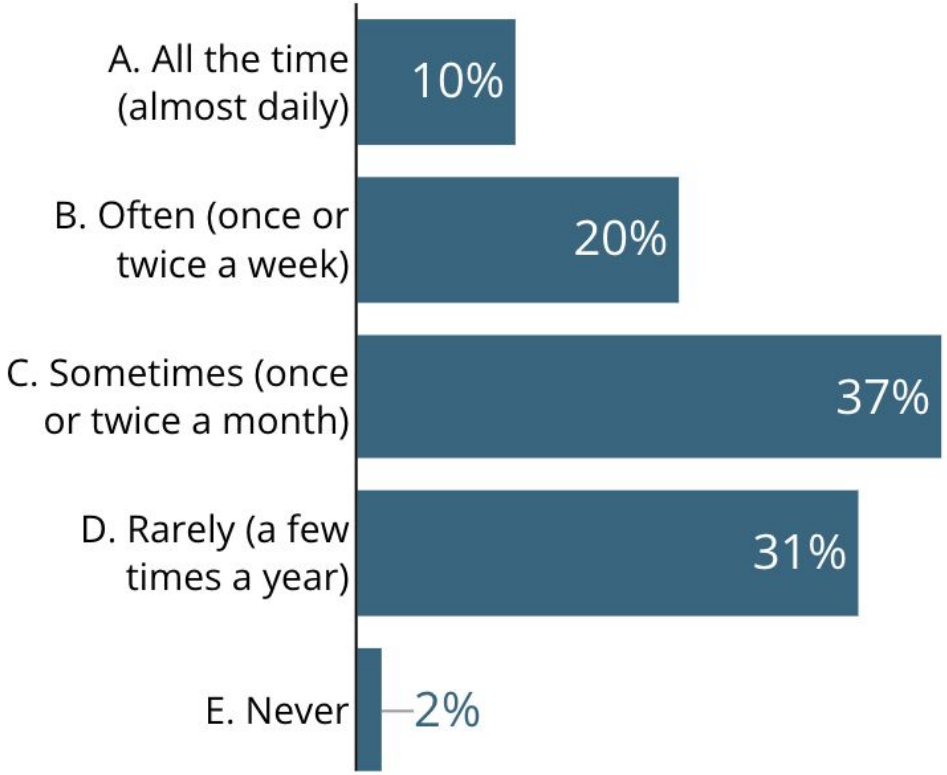
Findings

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**.

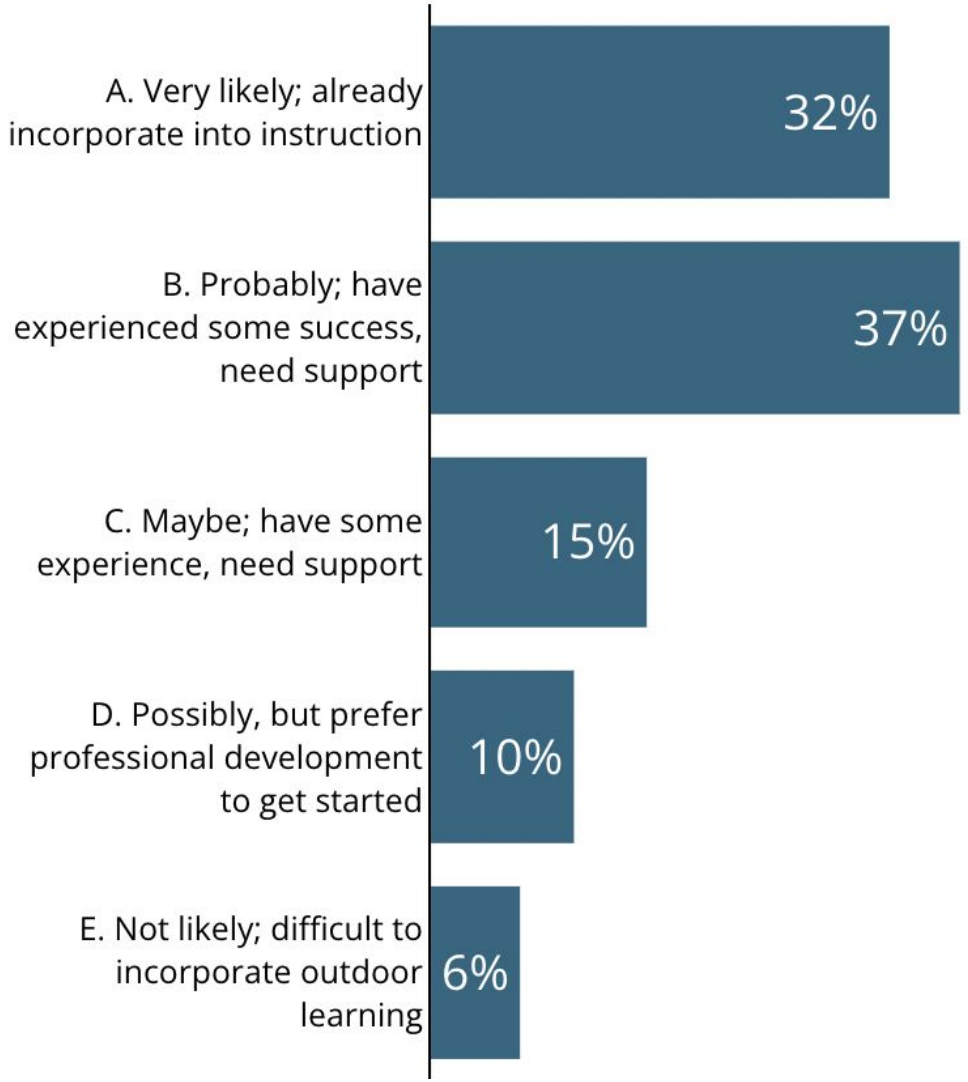


Findings

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



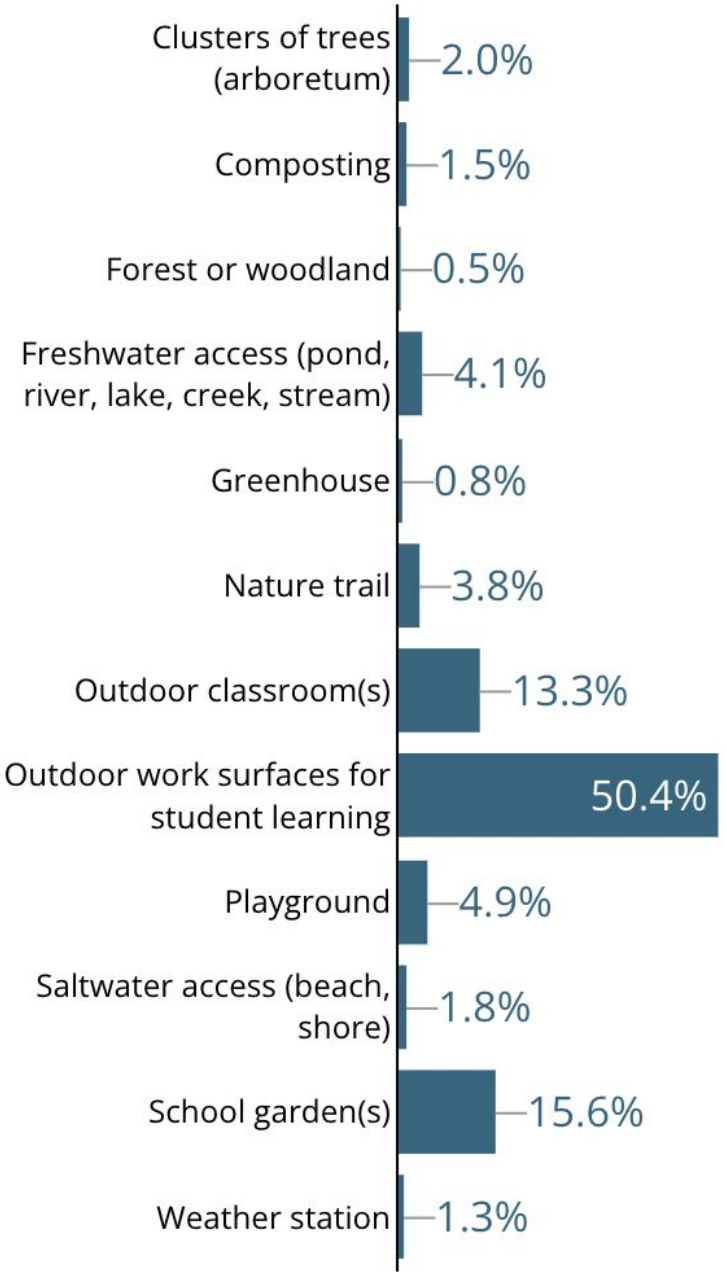
Findings

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.**

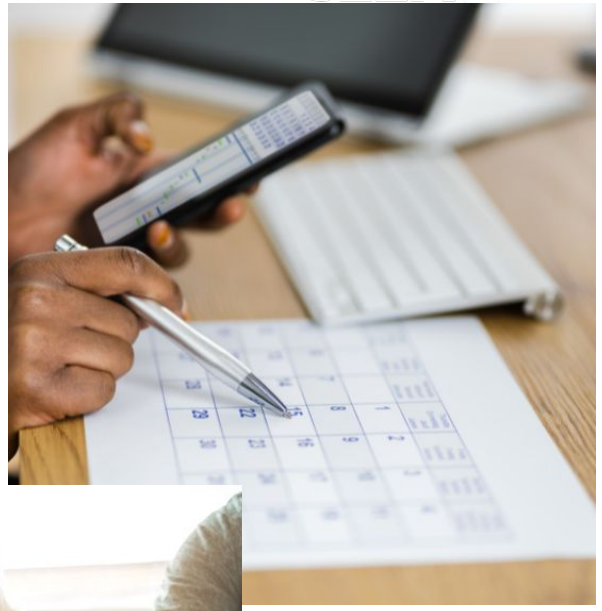


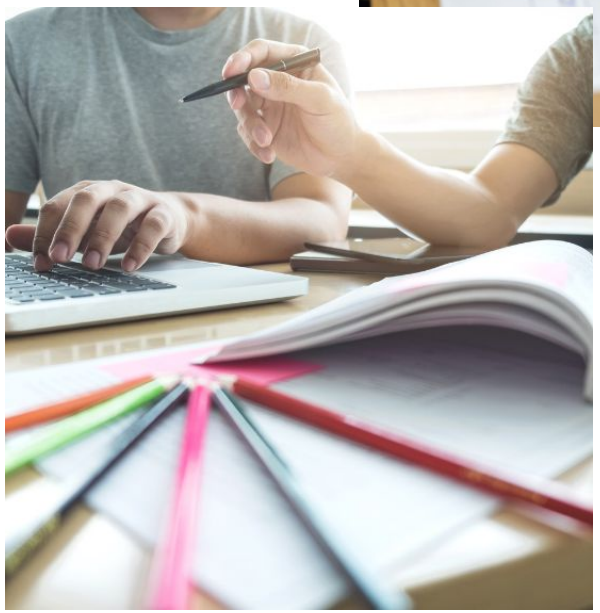
Findings

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

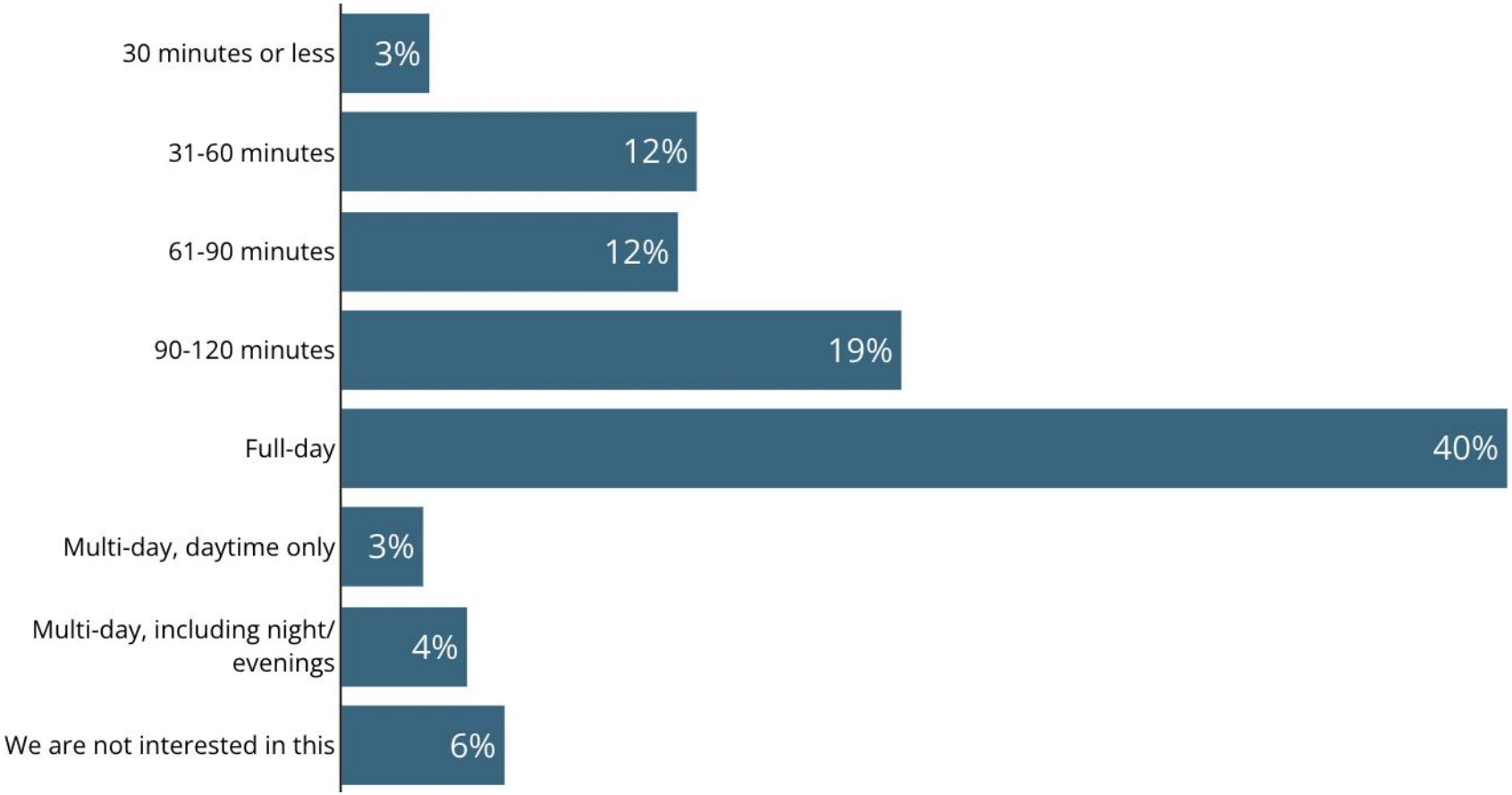
- Available work surfaces or tables - **66%**
- Available shade - **60%**
- Available seating - **59%**
- **Lesson Supplies - 52%**
- **Teaching materials - 50%**
- **Best practices for teaching outdoors - 44%**
- **Professional Development - 40%**
- Raised beds or gardens - **40%**
- Available green 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?**

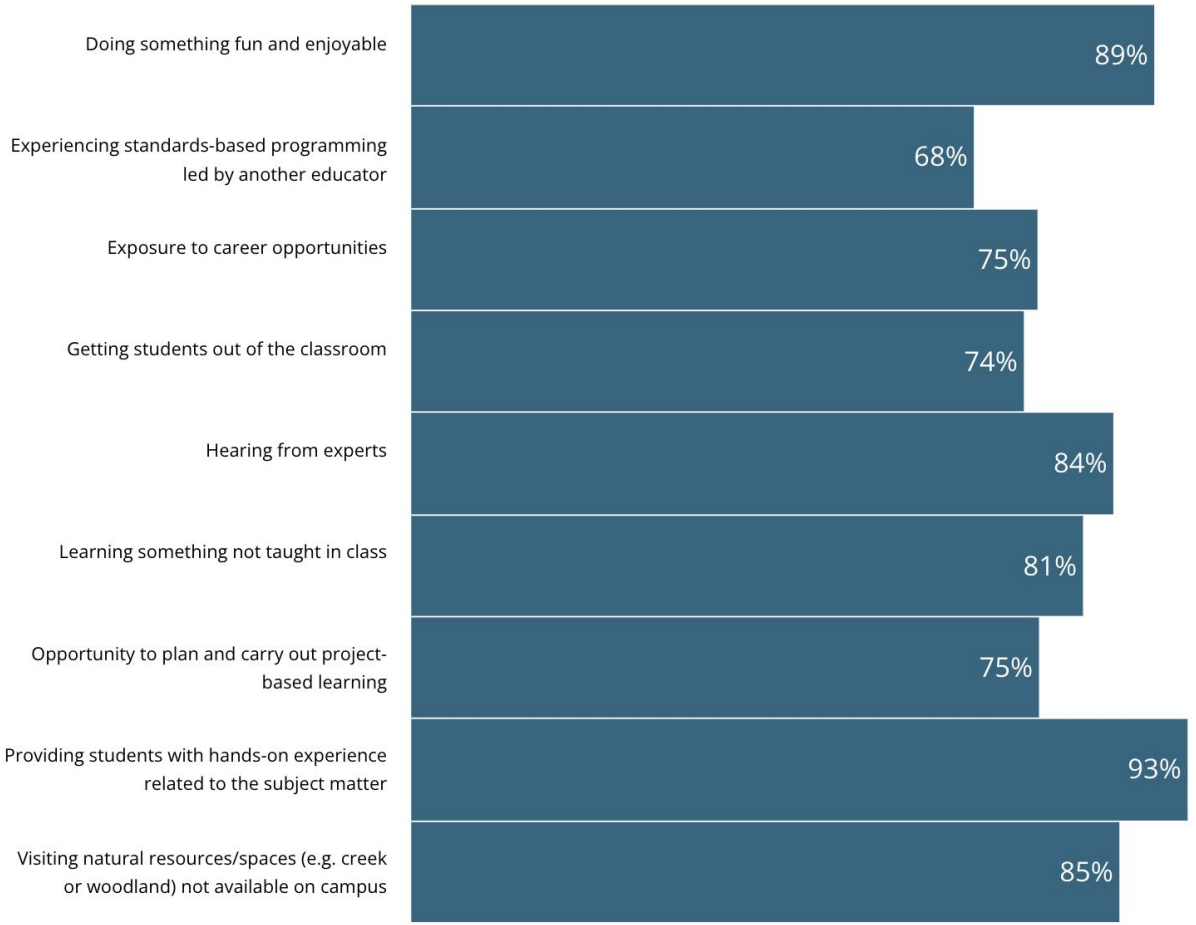


Findings

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:**

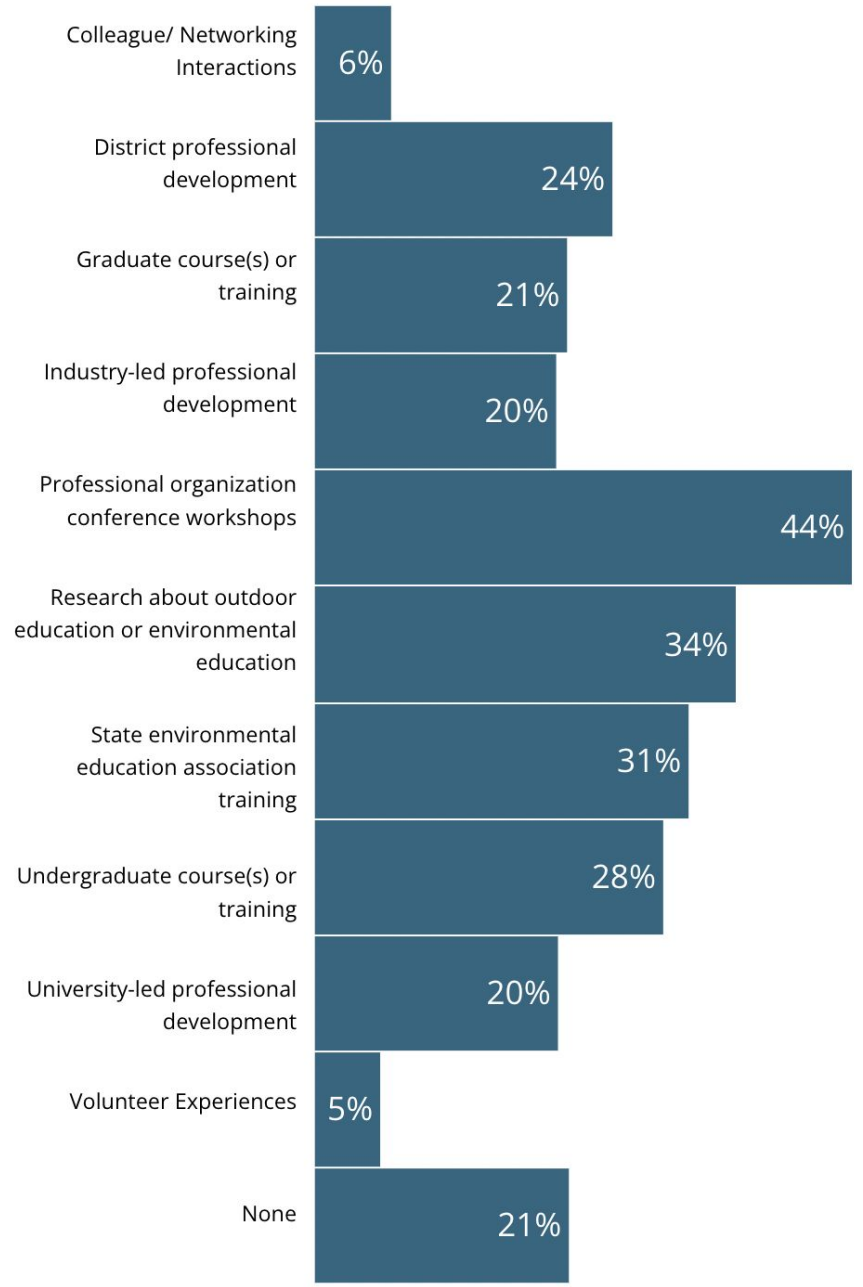
- Transportation Cost - **70%**
- Transportation Availability - **45%**
- Time - **48%**
- Site Fees - **43%**

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?

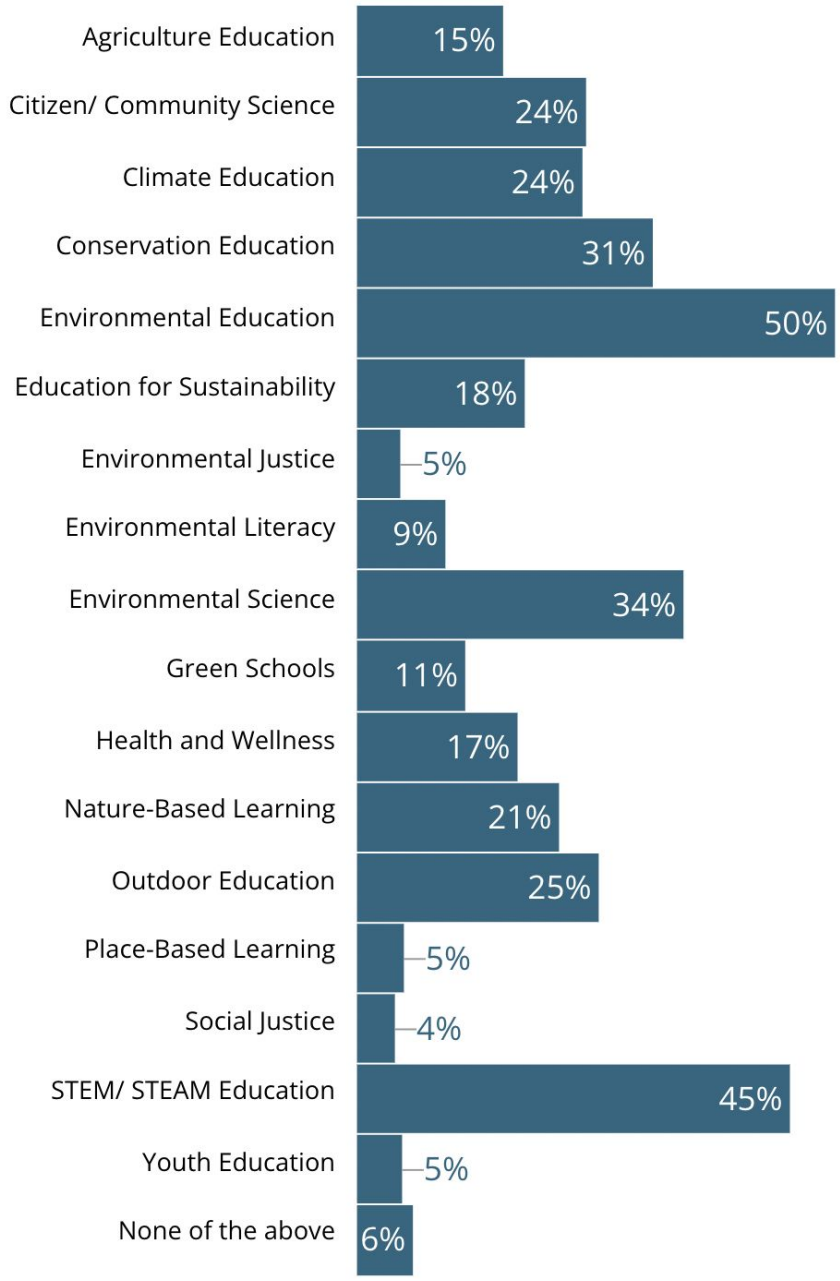
- Outdoor Learning (best practices, benefits, pedagogy - **26%**
- Gardening (indoor-outdoor) - **26%**
- Age-appropriate and locally relevant lesson ideas and hands-on activities - **25%**
- Sustainability - **19%**
- EE Best practices and strategies - **19%**
- Locally relevant plants and animals - **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 - 1**4%**
- 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:

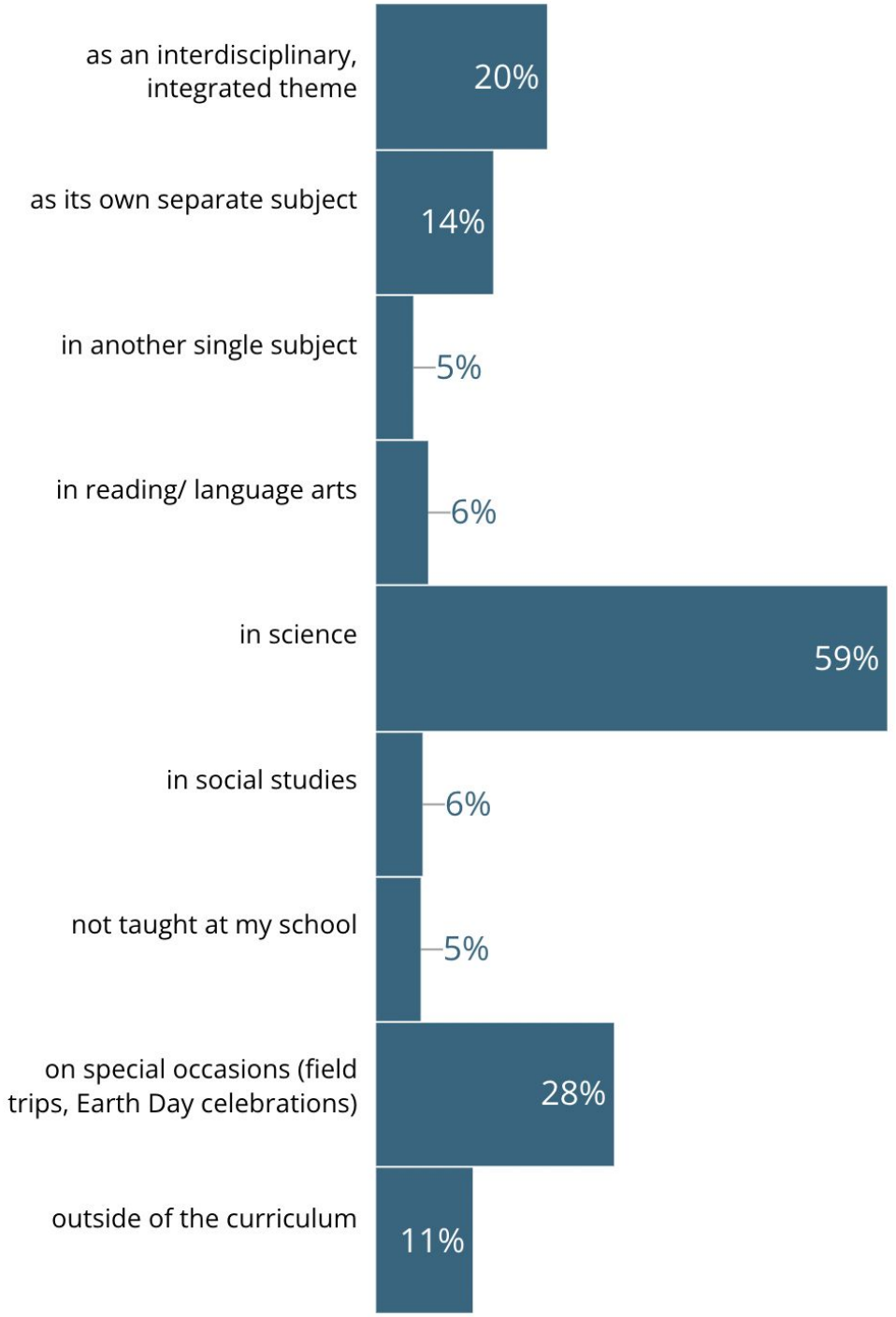
- Environmental Education
- Outdoor Education
- Conservation Education
- Nature-Based Learning
- STEM/STEAM

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**



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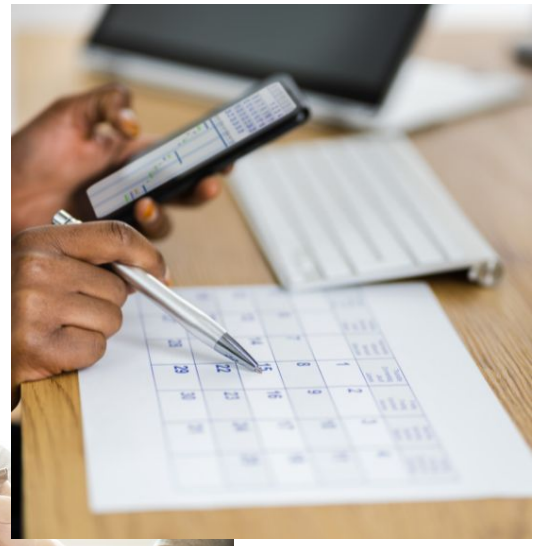
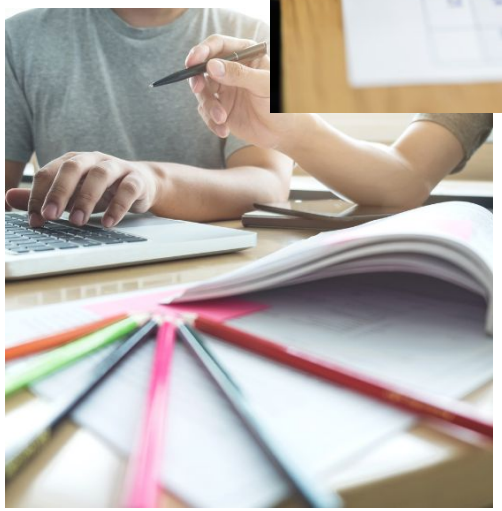
Findings

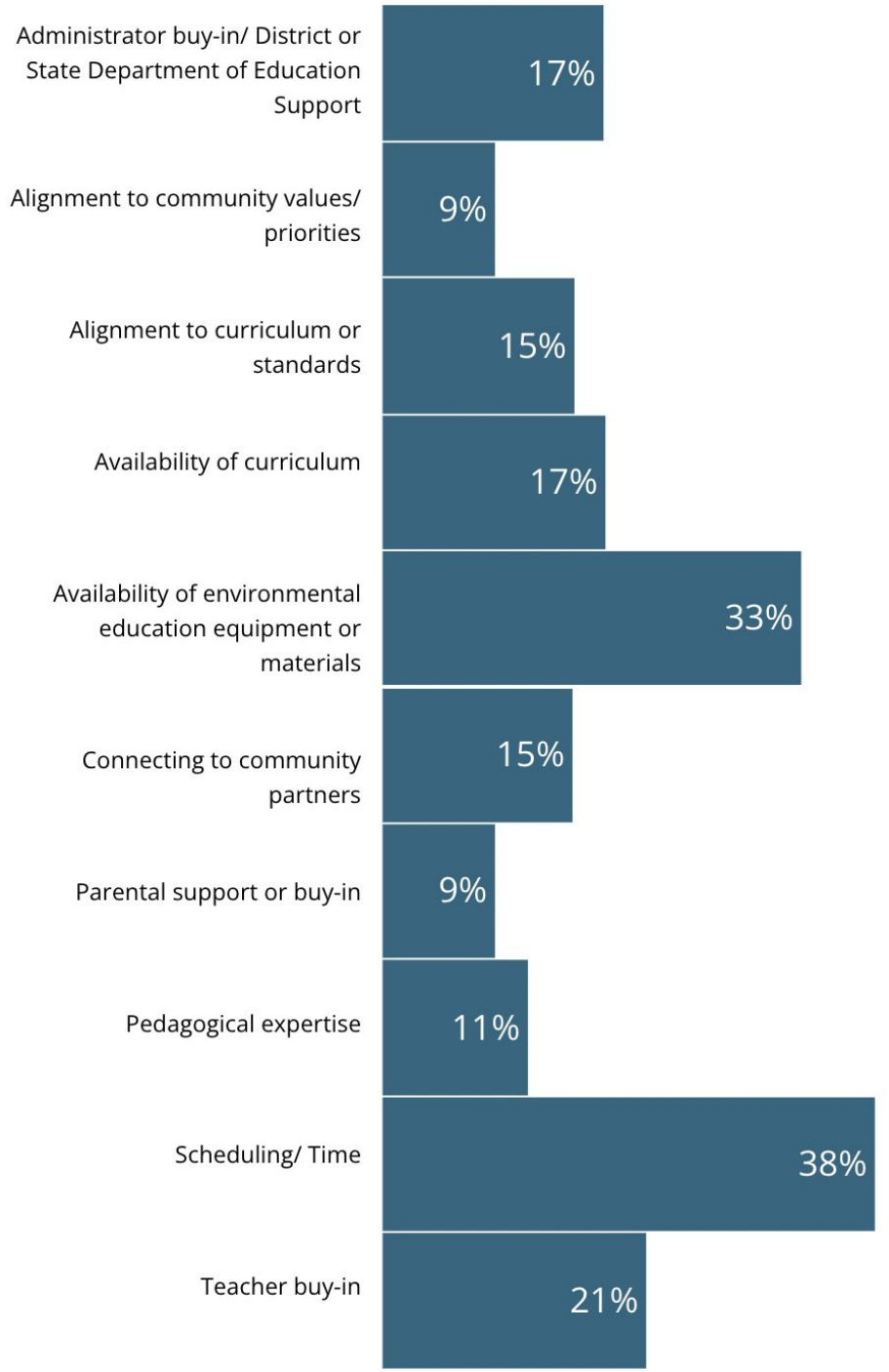
K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Barriers

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





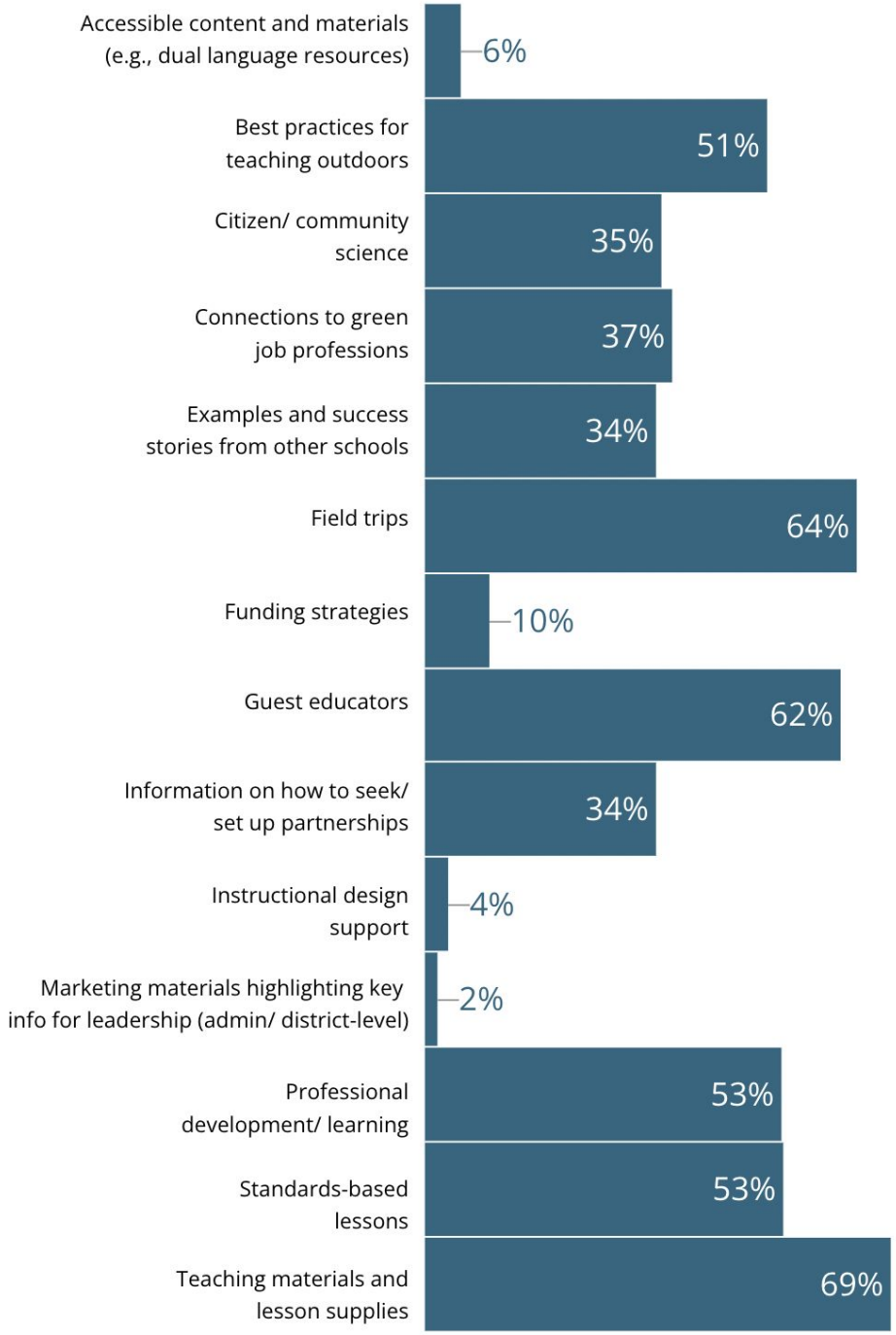


Findings

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

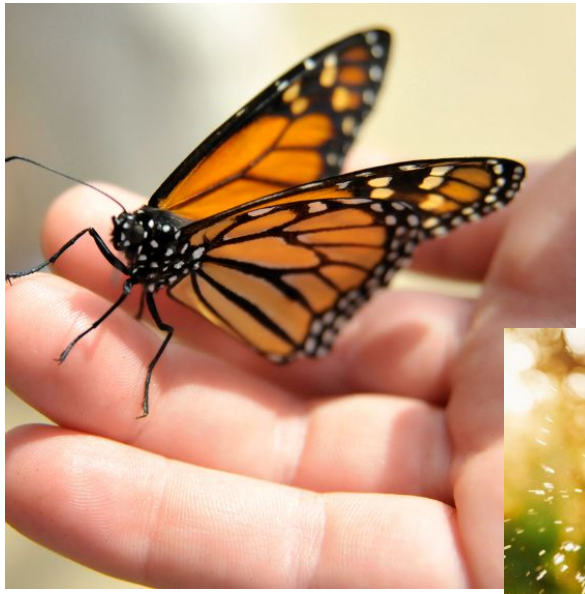


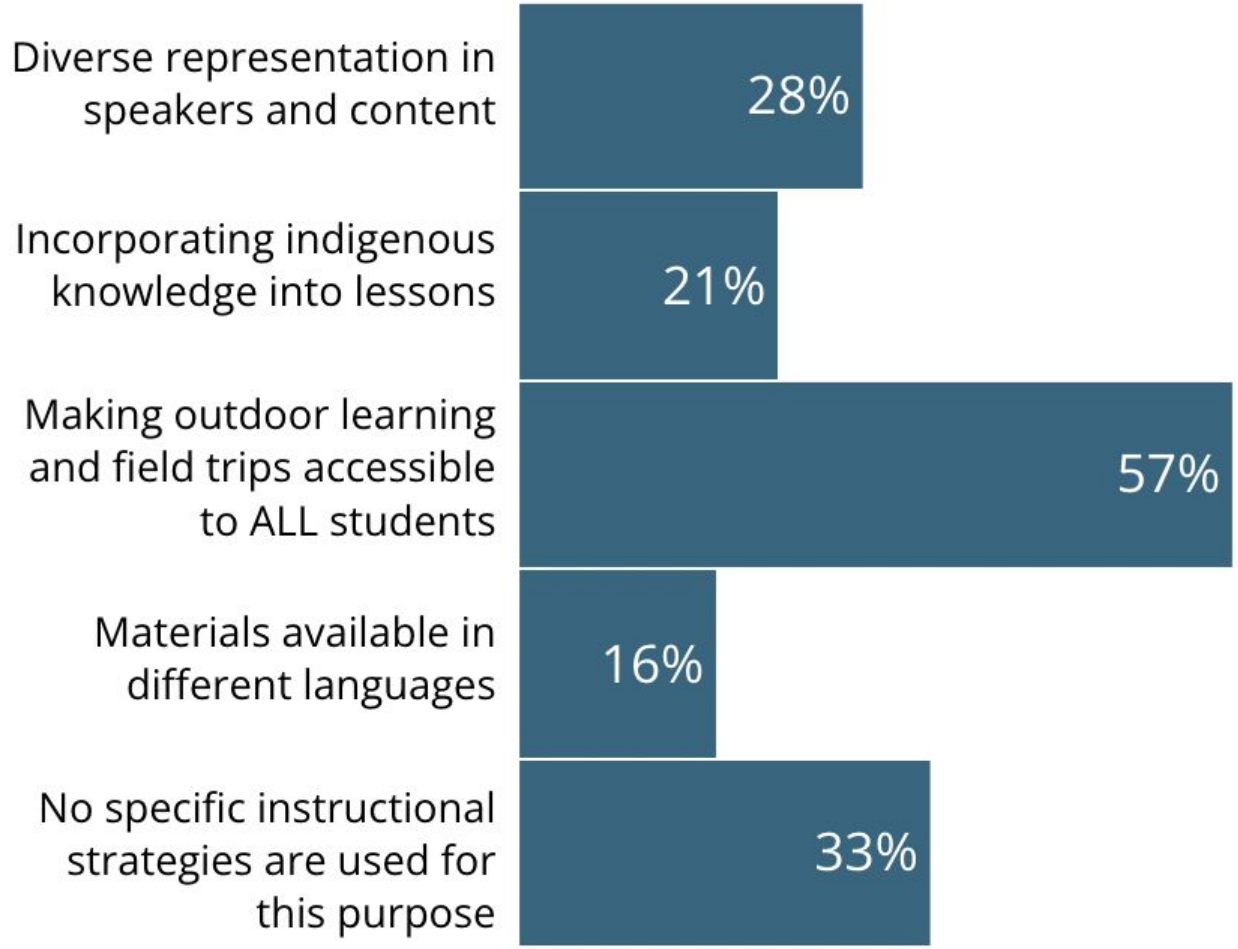
SEEA

Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Inclusivity

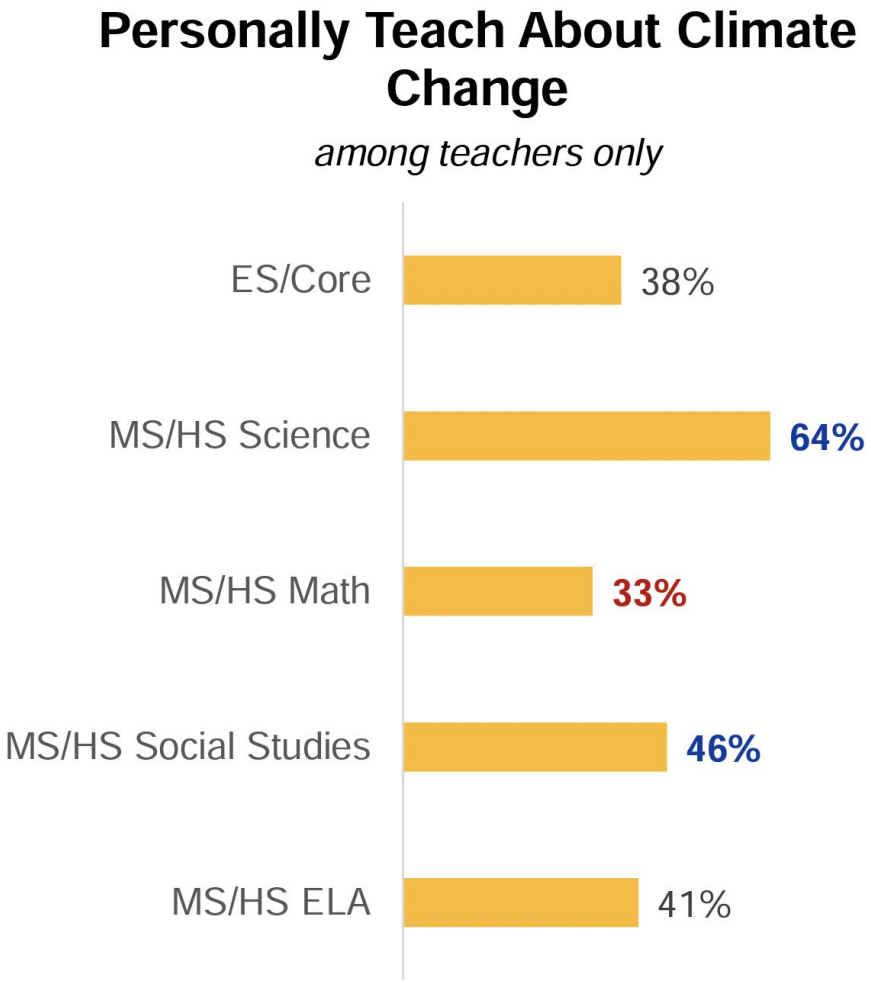
Instructional strategies used to make **environmental education more inclusive:**

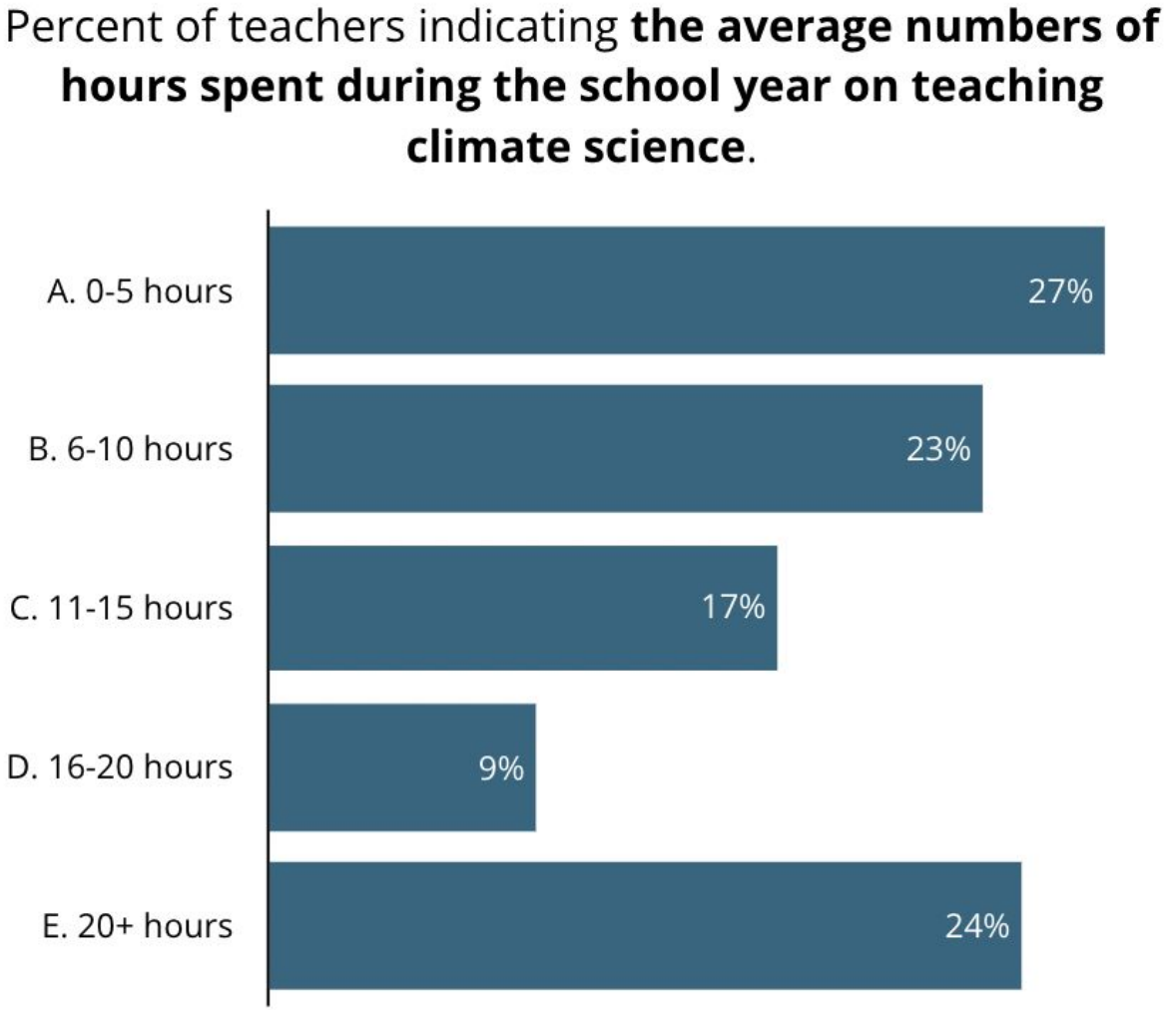




Findings

K-12 Schools | EE Integration - Climate Literacy





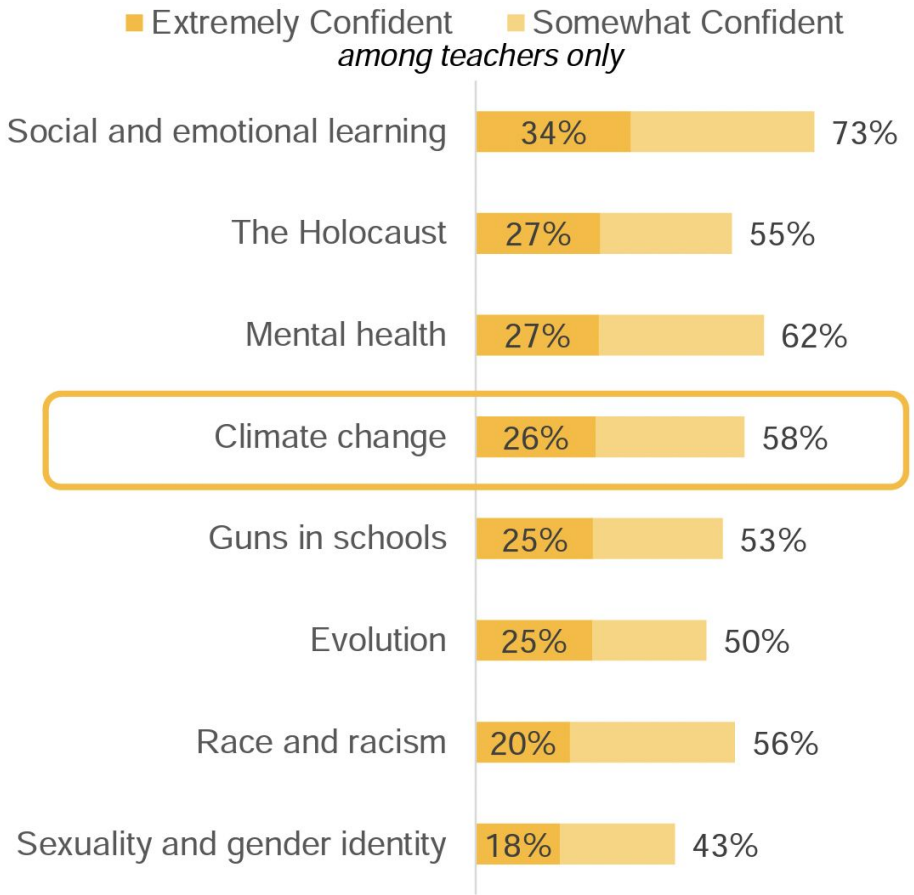
The State of Climate Change Education: Findings from a National Survey of Educators, NAAEE 2022

Findings

State of Climate Change 2022 | NAAEE Survey of Educators

Only 21% of Teachers feel "very informed" about climate change

Confidence Addressing the Following Topics with Students



% 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

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.

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

"If Climate Change Education Matters, Why Don't All Teachers Teach It," Madeline Will, EdWeek, 2023

SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

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!

SEEA

SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

RESOURCES

Resource Hub

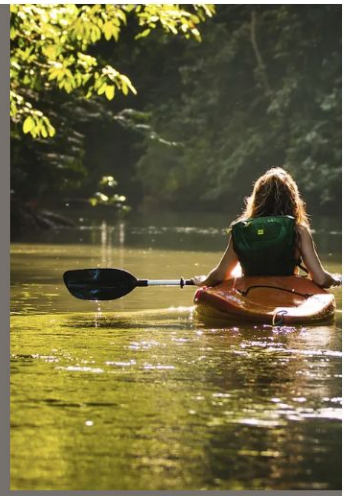
southeastee.org/landscape

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 annd 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

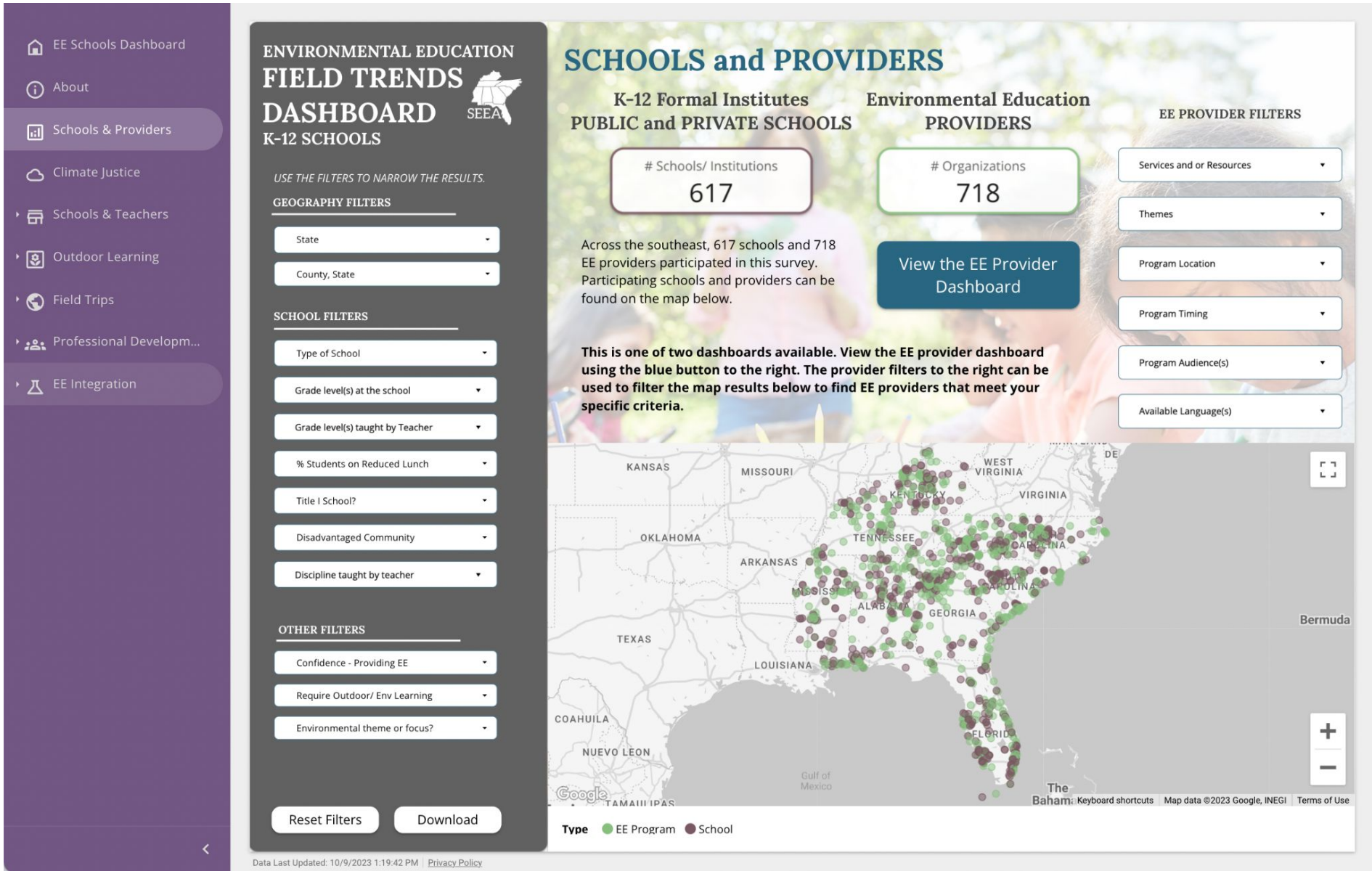
Tutorials & Videos

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

Learn More

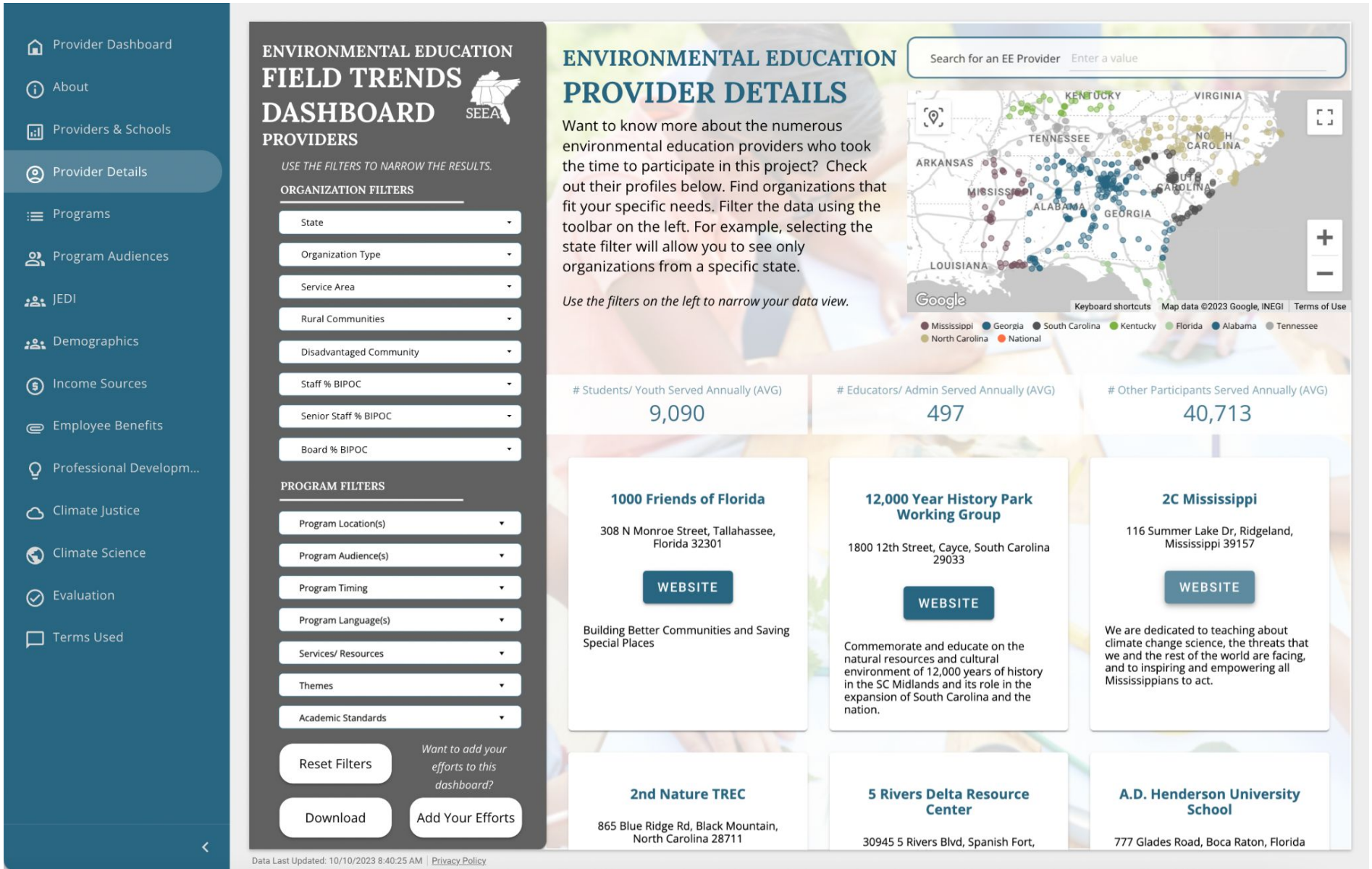
Resource Hub

Field Trends Dashboard | K-12 Schools



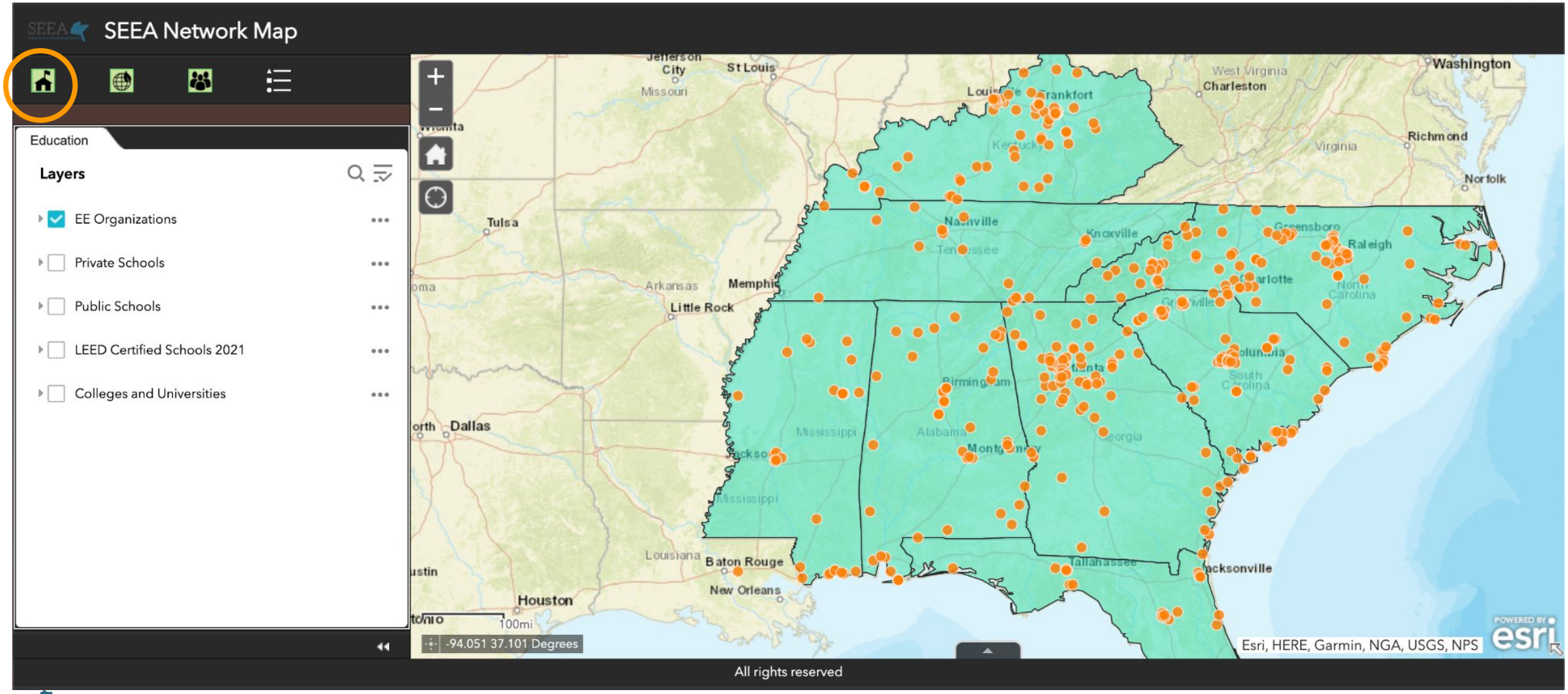
Resource Hub

Field Trends Dashboard | EE Providers



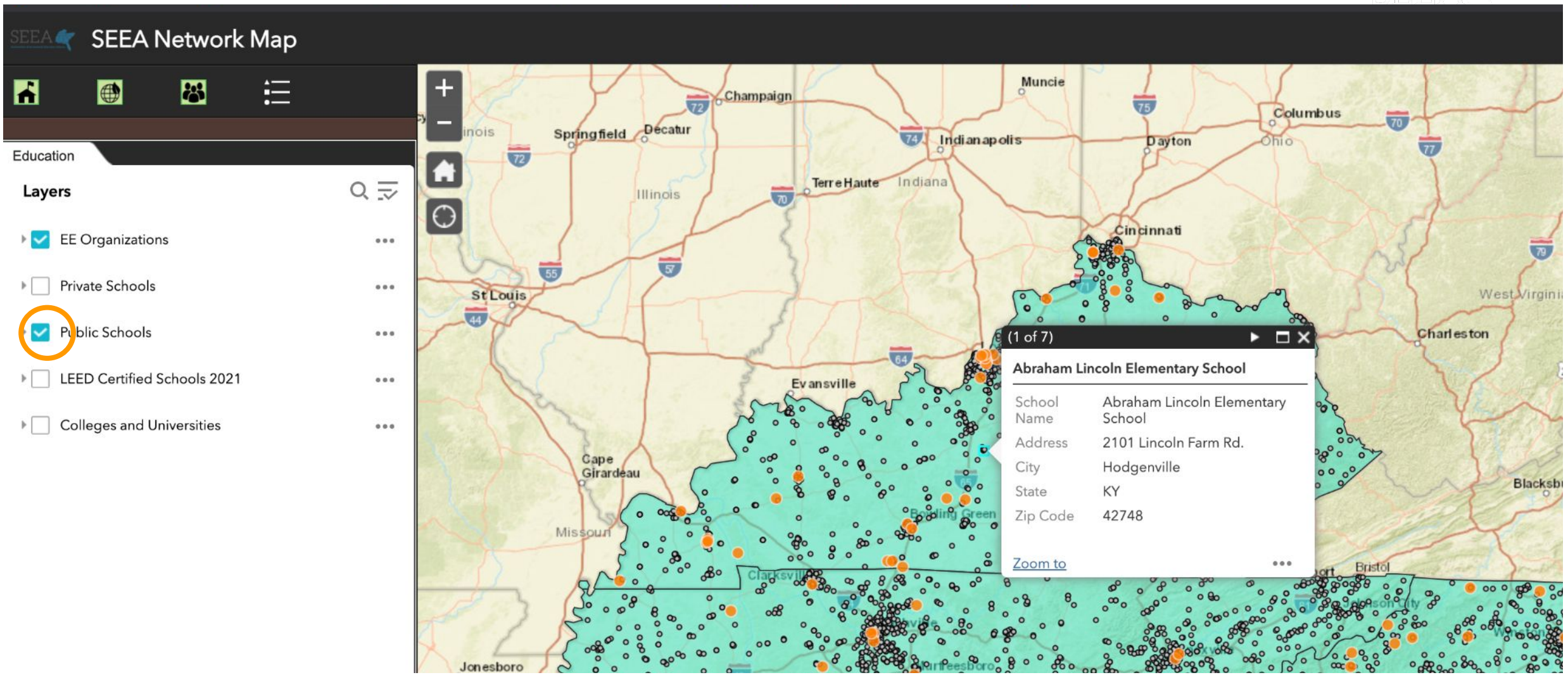
Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map



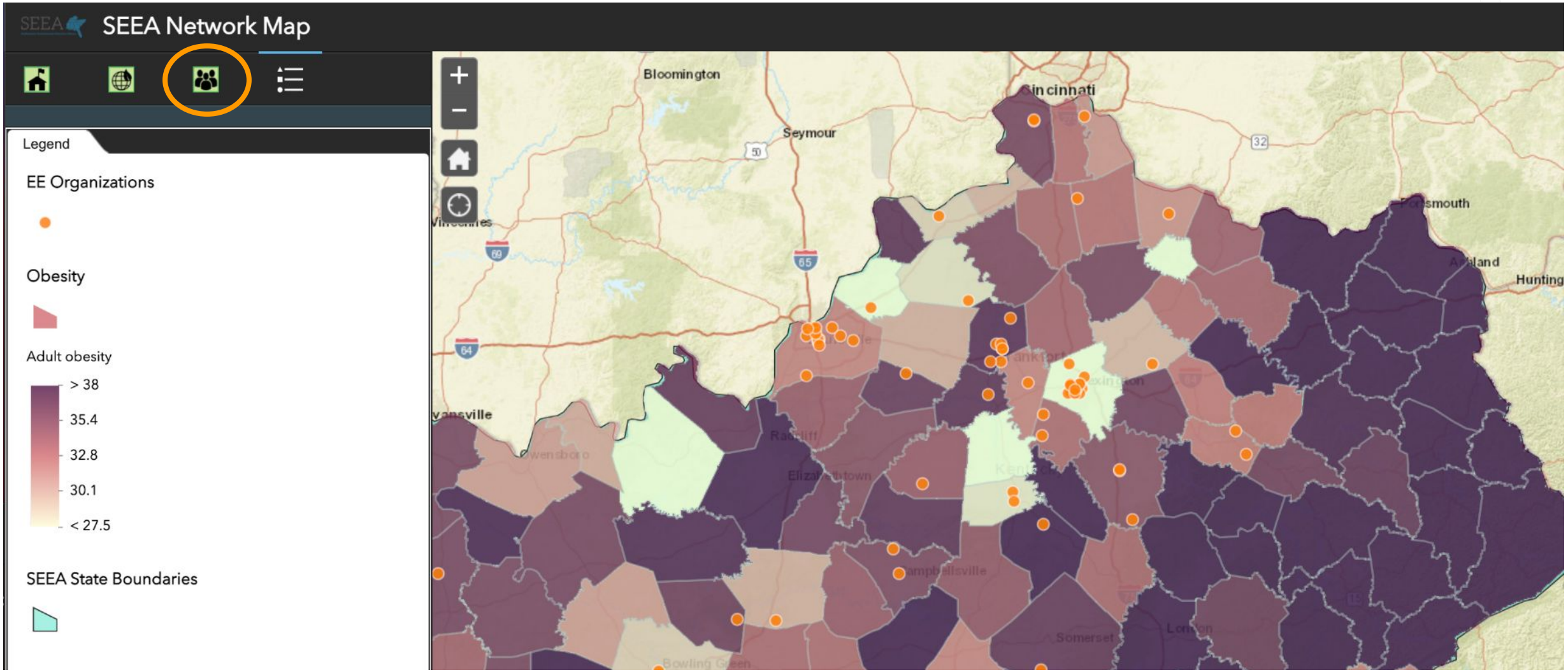
Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map



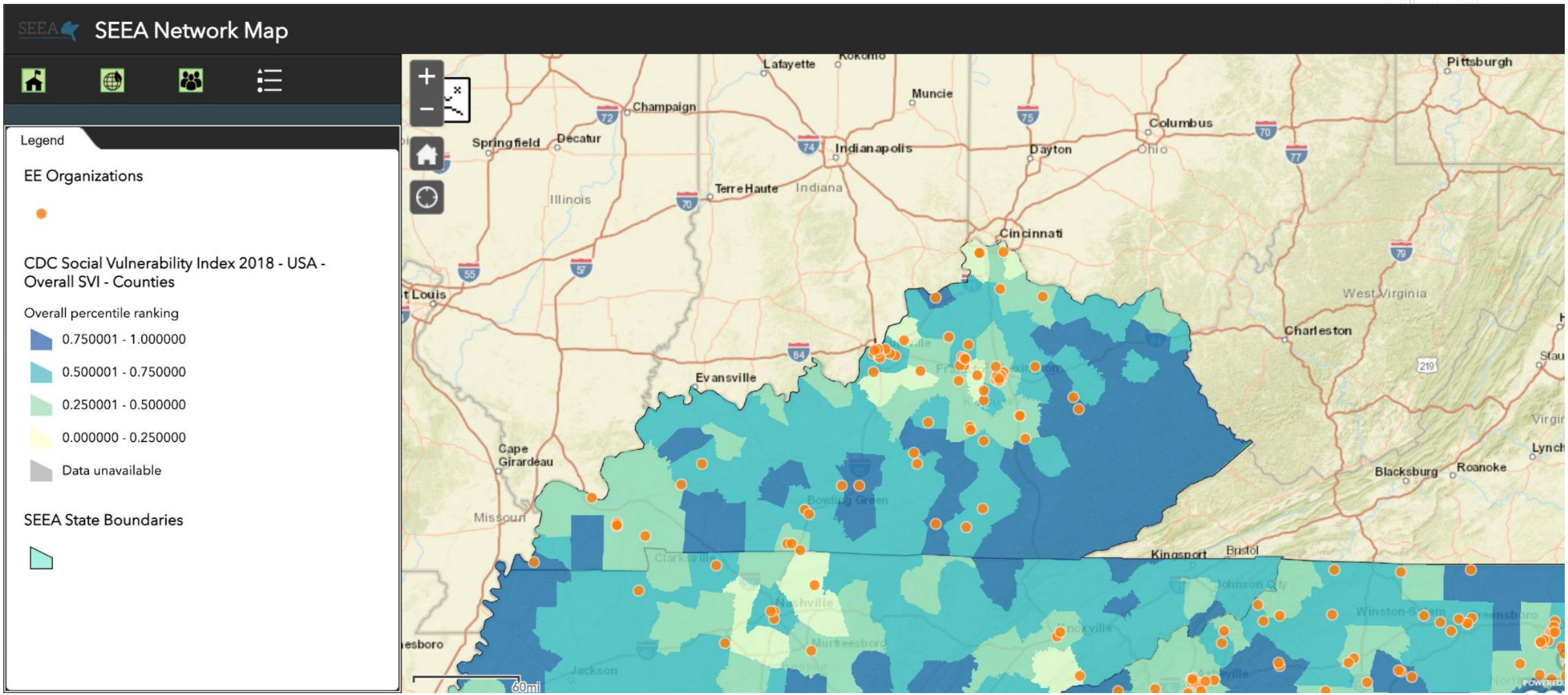
Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map



Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map



Resource Hub

Climate, Equity, and Education Map

SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

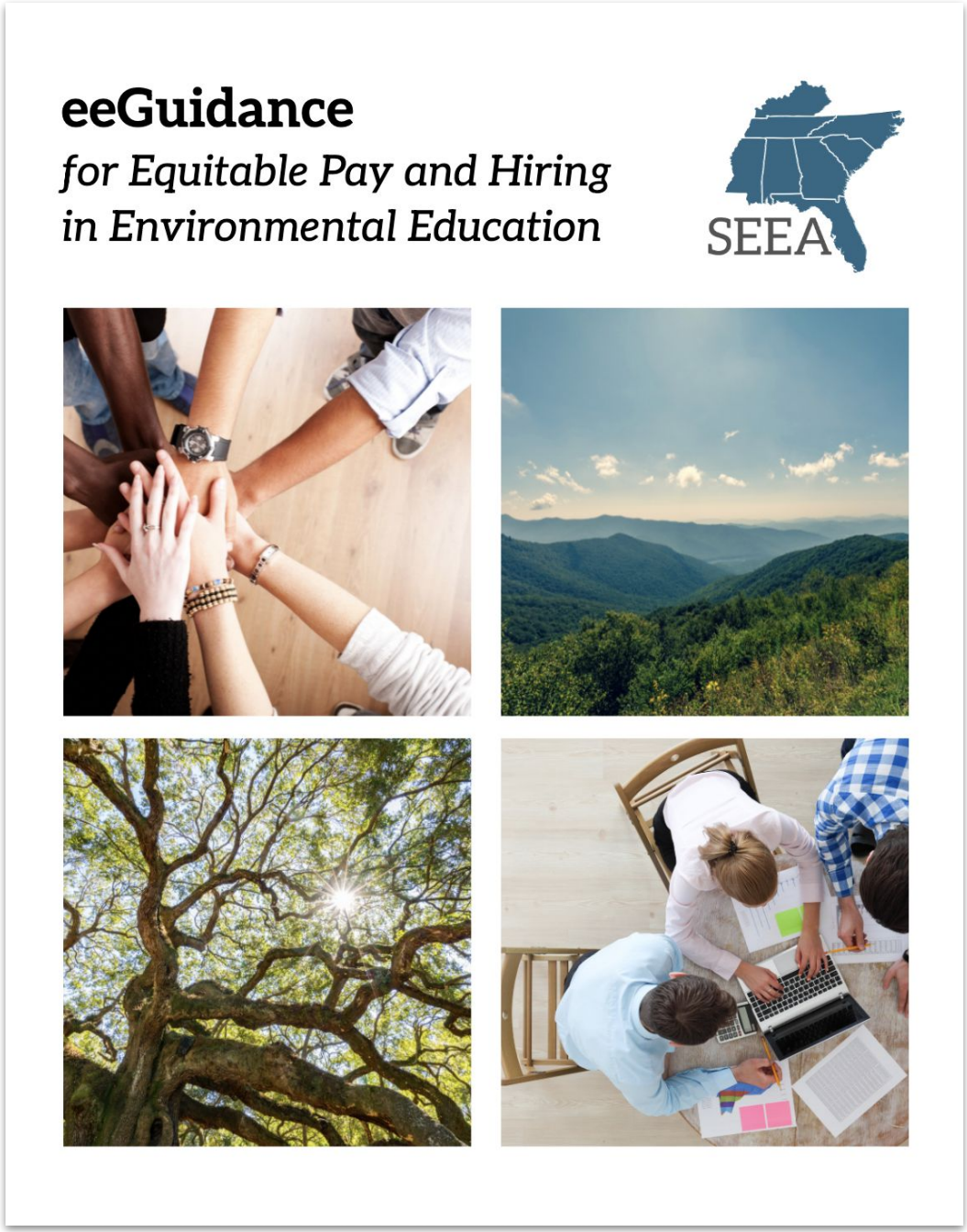
NOW WHAT?

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.



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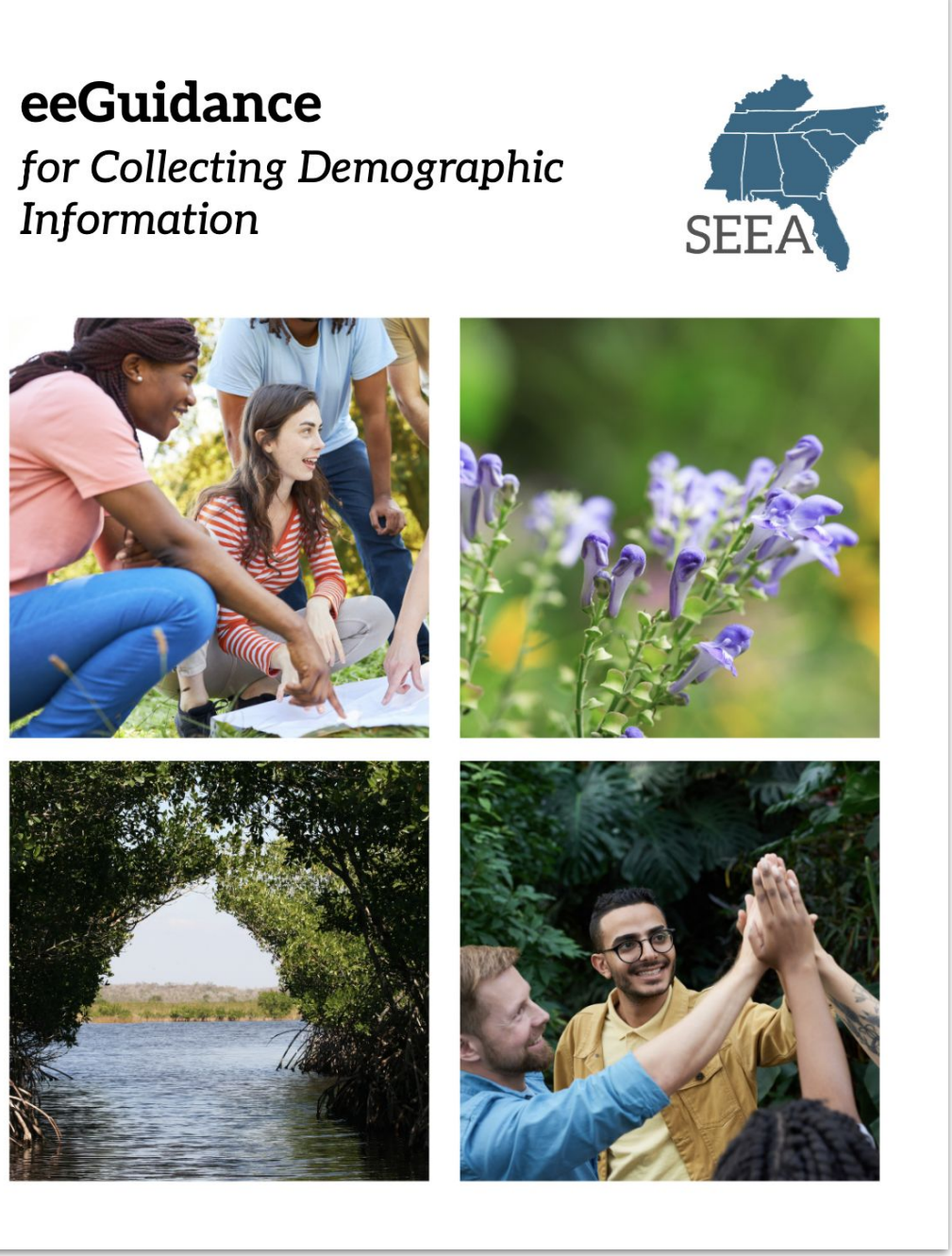
southeastee.org/eeguidance

Resulting Resource

eeGuidance

Collecting Demographic Information

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



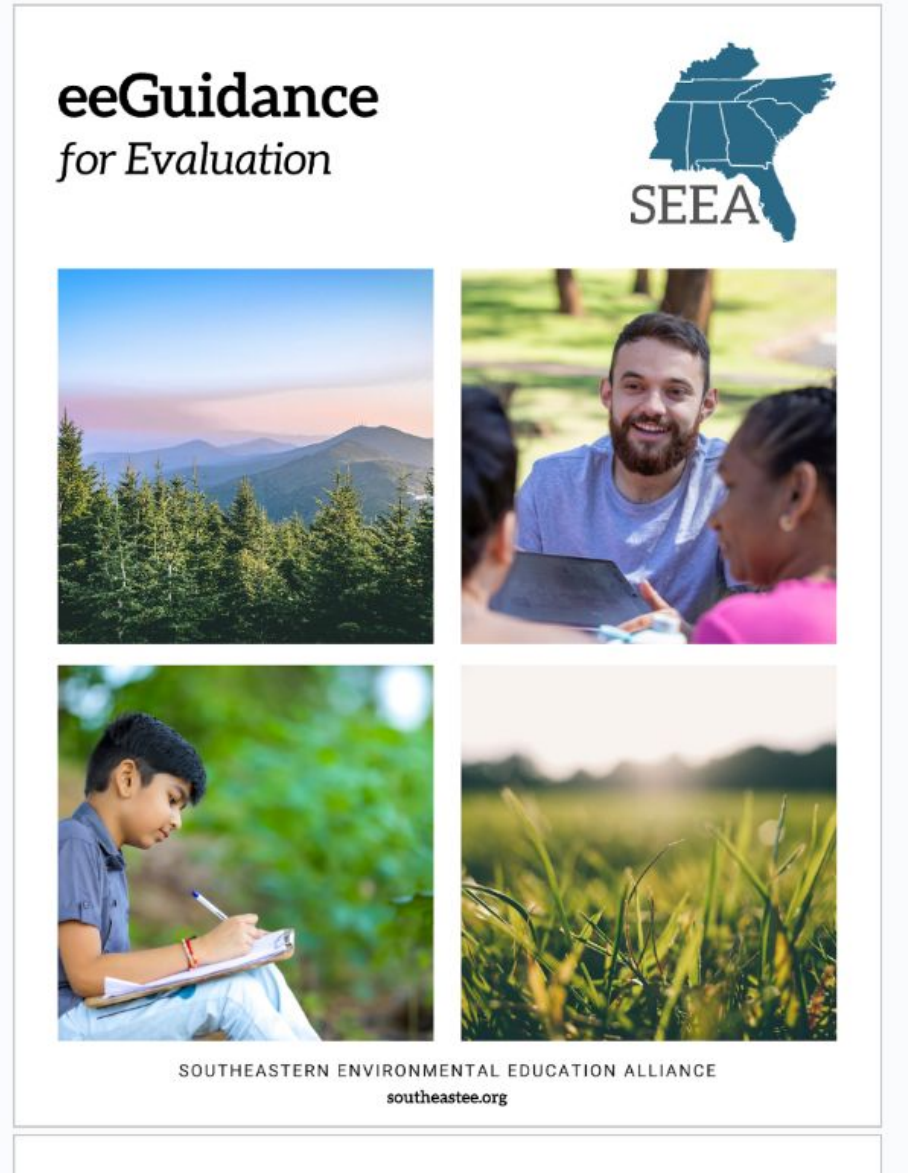
southeastee.org/eeguidance

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.

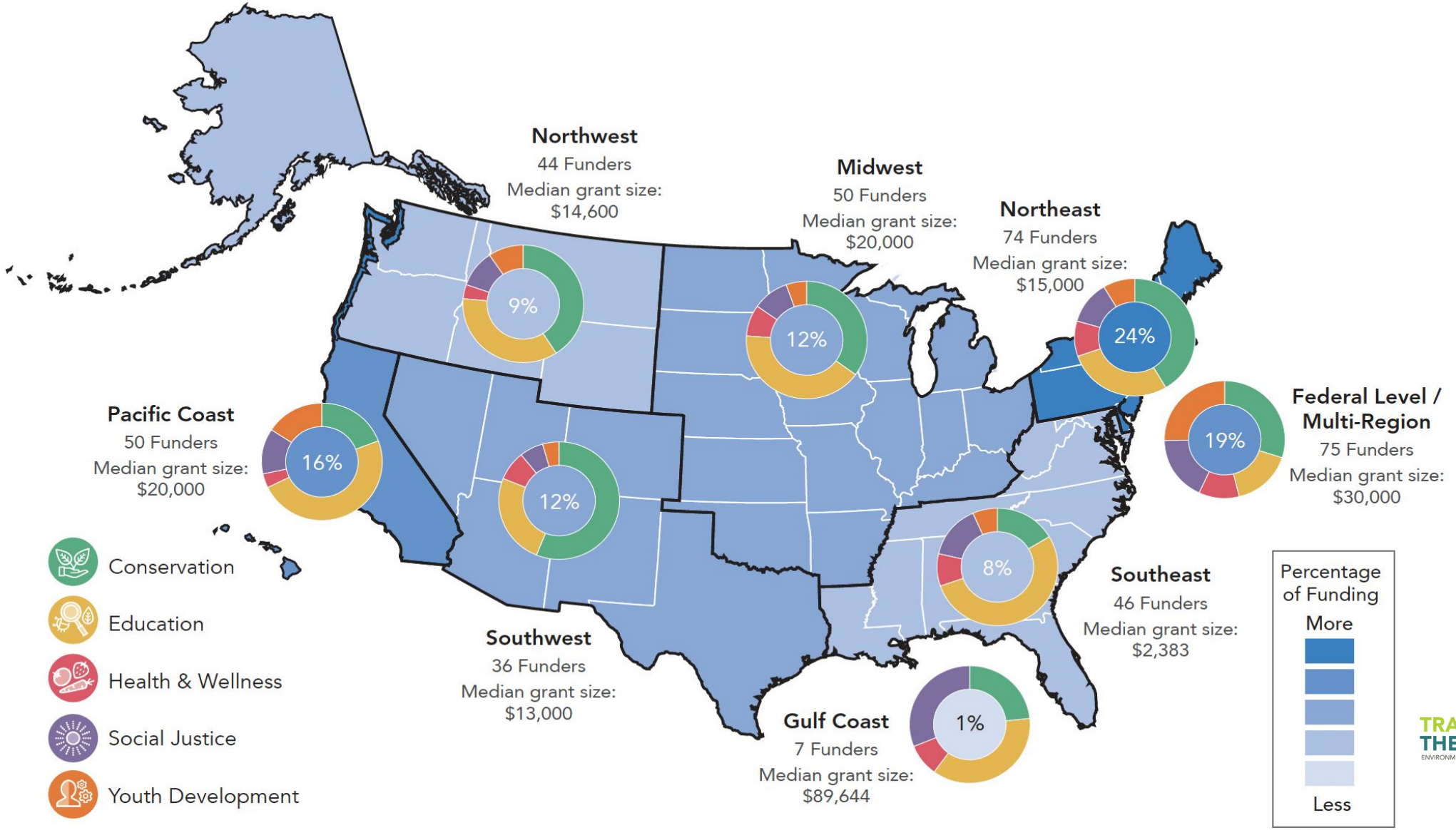


SEEA

southeastee.org/eeguidance

Moving Forward

Environmental Literacy Giving by Region (2019)



SEEA

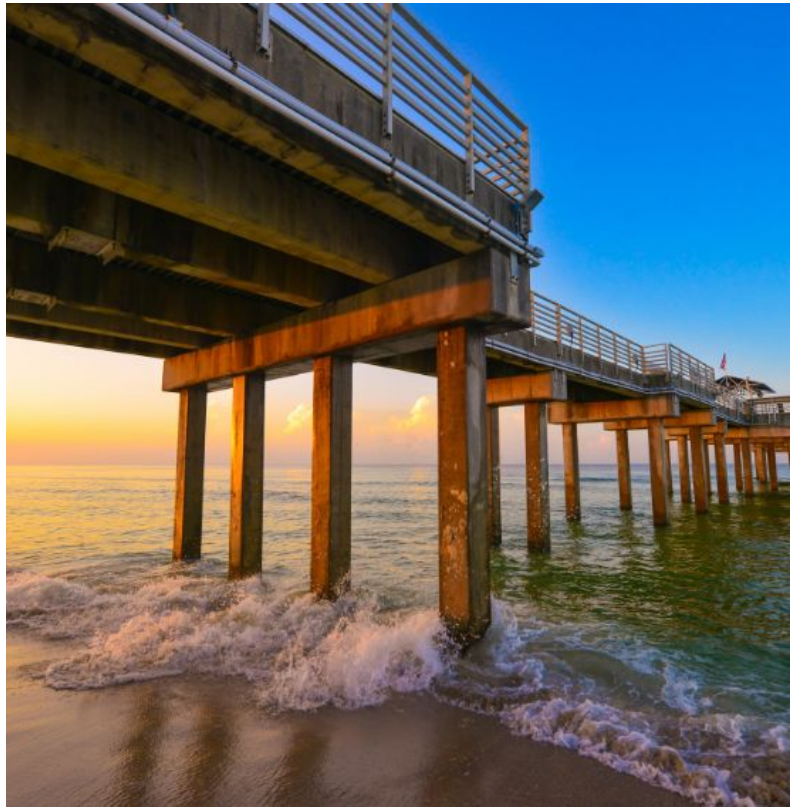
TRACKING THE FIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS ASSOCIATION

Moving Forward

SEEA Funders' Briefing

Moving Forward

Future Opportunities



SEEA Landscape ANALYSIS

QUESTIONS?

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director@kaee.org