Bay Program Education Workgroup Meeting

Quarter 4
October 5, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome
- ELIT Progress
- 2027 Education Forum
- Bay Program Updates
- K-12 CTE Action Team Updates
- Sustainable Schools Draft Project Proposal
- Wrap Up

REGIONAL OUTDOOR LEARNING NETWORK MAP

The Regional Outdoor Learning Network (ROLN) is a network of partners working together to advance environmental literacy across the Mid-Atlantic region. Since 2021, it has been supported by a "Design Team" which currently consists of NOAA, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake Bay Program, Local Concepts & other partners.

WHAT'S NAT?

A Network Advisory Team convened from across the Regional Outdoor Learning Network – an environmental literacy network of networks in the Mid-Atlantic region.

NAT'S PURPOSE

To increase information sharing and communication across ROLN, advise on ROLN activities and functions, and share perspectives and innovations coming from across ROLN.

NAT'S FUNCTIONS

Bridges communication across ROLN; advises & aligns networks and groups, weaving the environmental literacy network ecosystem in the Mid-Atlantic region.



COLOR KEY

- COMMUNICATION & ADVISORY FOCUSED
- LEARNING FOCUSED
- ACTION FOCUSED

DRAFT – JUNE 2026

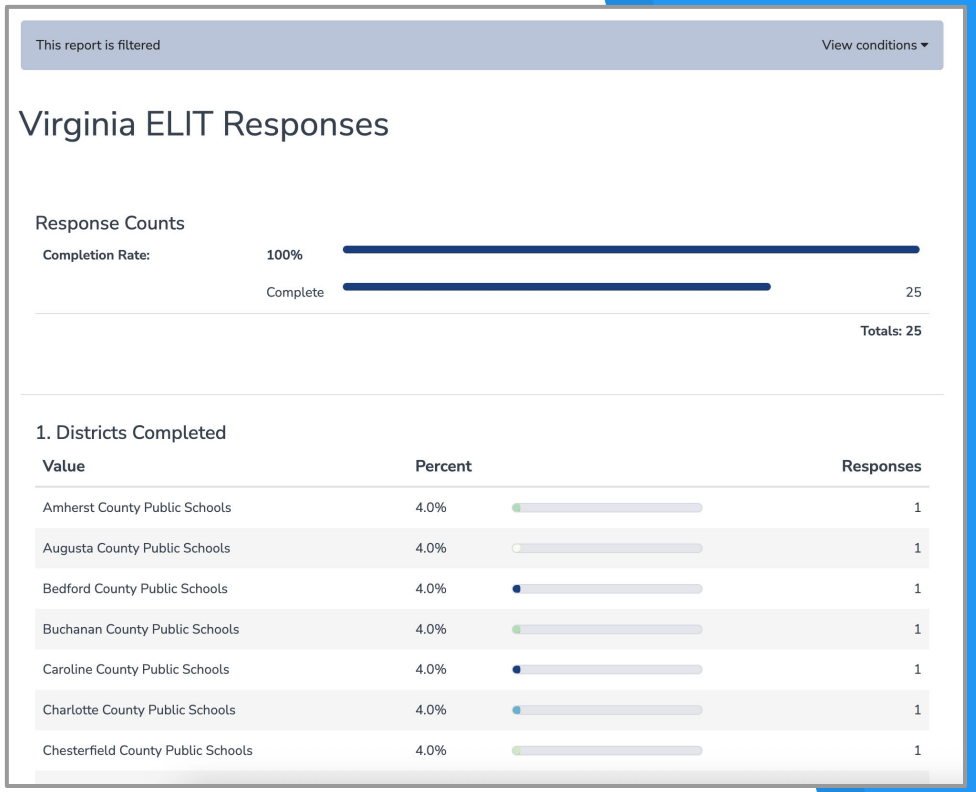
State & Regional Capacity Building Updates

ELIT 2026

- Launched on August 1st
- Closes on November 20th
- Draft reports will be available in Jan/Feb 2027, finals by early March

New Tool: State Dashboards

- Easy way to see which districts have completed ELIT
- Ignore the “Completion Rate” %



As of this morning...

- VA: 31
- PA: 26
- WV: 3
- MD: 2
- DE: 1
- DC: 0

Round-Robin: What new strategies are you employing this year to encourage ELIT response?

Education Forum (2027)

- January 26-27 at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, MD
- State Network Leaders have developed invite list
- Primary audience: regional hub leaders

Education Forum (2027)

- Forum Focus = cross-state support for regional hub leaders including focus on:
  - Strategies for long-term hub sustainability
  - Techniques for increasing member engagement
  - Impact measurement and best practices
  - Building on the groundwork we've laid in previous Education Forums

Education Forum (2027)

- Forum planning team meeting monthly on agenda planning **(Oct 14th 1-2:30)**
  - EDW membership
  - State network leaders
  - Regional hub leaders

- NAT & EDW will get regular updates + have opportunity to advise/weigh in

Peek at the Objectives

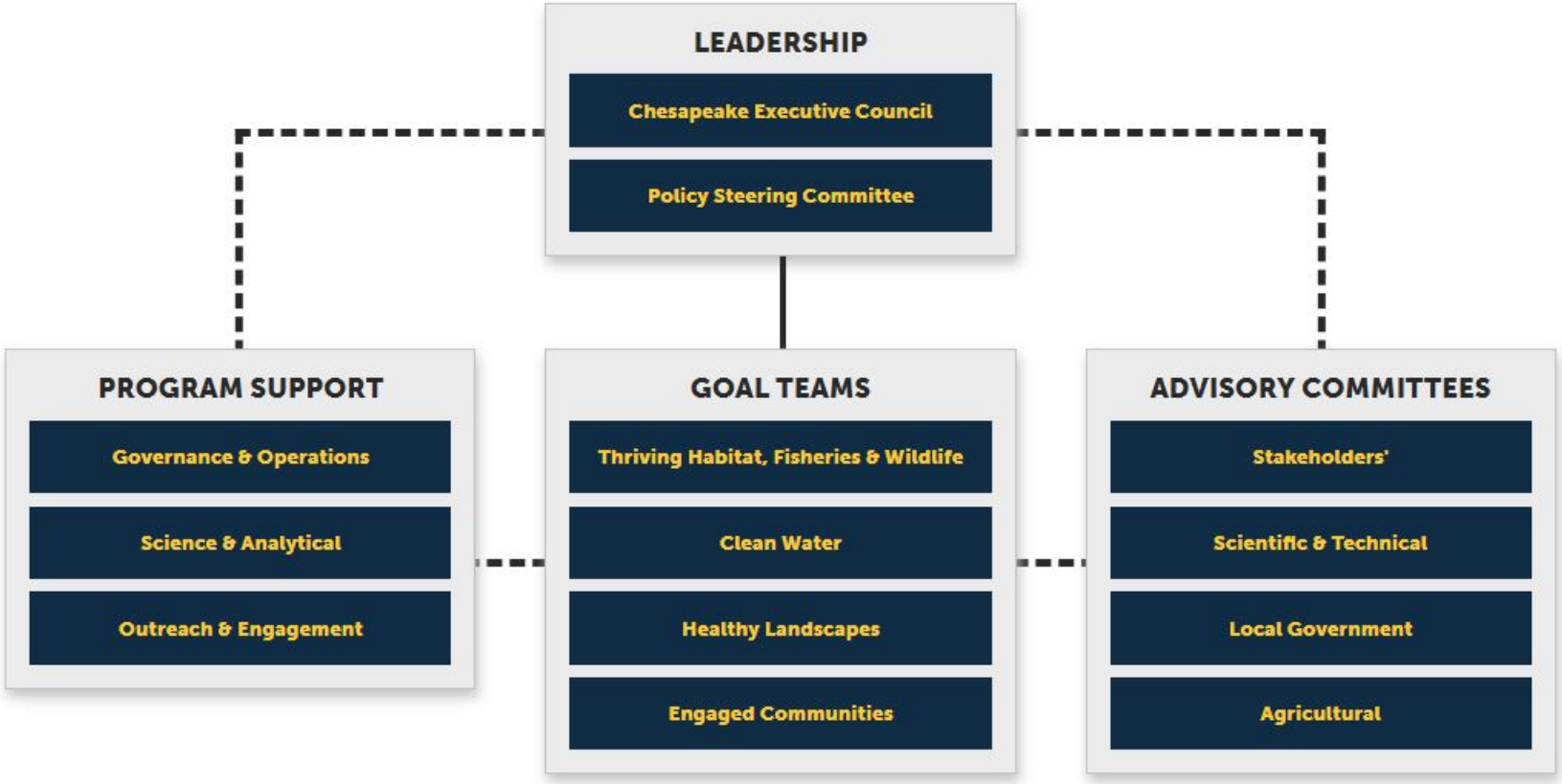
- Build connections across hubs in the Mid-Atlantic states and map regional areas of focus and innovations that advance environmental literacy through Systemic MWEEs and Student EL Experiences, District Environmental Literacy Plans & Policies, Sustainable Schools, and Workforce/CTE Pathways.

- Support leaders in their roles as catalysts by providing practical tools including peer-tested strategies to improve engagement, communications, agenda design, and long-term planning across local networks.

- Equip leaders with resources to measure hub health and progress, while identifying opportunities for ongoing and sustainable state network support structures.

Organizational Chart

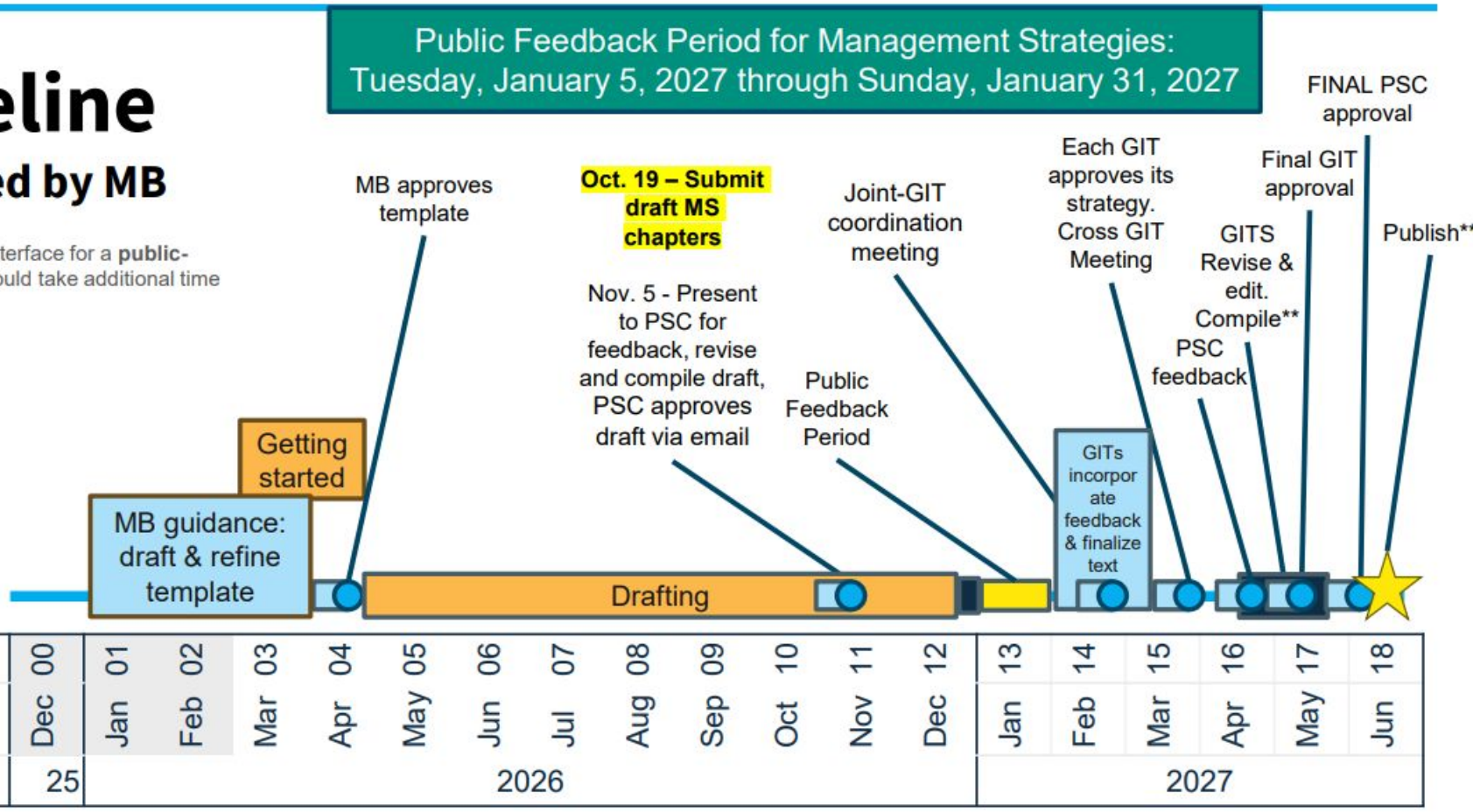
The structure of the Chesapeake Bay Program ensures collaboration and consensus-building across the partnership.



Timeline

Approved by MB

Dynamic web interface for a **public-facing content would take additional time



Management Strategy Timeline Recap

- MS Chapters for each EL Outcome are being reviewed by the Goal Team
- MS will be submitted to PSC by Oct. 19th
- Public feedback period:
  - January 5th-31st

Student Experiences Outcome
Proposed Management Approaches

Management Approach 4.5.1: Maximize Use of Impactful Environmental Literacy Resources

Develop and disseminate environmental literacy resources that equip educators to advance state education priorities using inquiry-based instruction and MWEEs. Use a process that includes regional development, state-level promotion, and local network vetting and dissemination.

Management Approach 4.5.2: Scale and Sustain Inquiry-based Learning and MWEEs

Leverage intentionally connected regional, state, and local networks to secure funding, deliver training, and strengthen collaboration between formal and nonformal partners in support of systemic inquiry-based learning and MWEE programming.

District Planning Outcome
Proposed Management Approaches

Management Approach 4.3.1: Support Jurisdictional Governance and Accountability
Use data-driven metrics to build state leadership understanding, engagement, and support for environmental literacy. Leverage support to catalyze action at the state and local level, including improving cross-agency coordination to align policies, practices, and funding to accelerate environmental literacy efforts.

Management Approach 4.3.2: Ensure Availability of High Quality Planning Resources
Create and maintain resources, frameworks, and programming that enable school district leaders and personnel to seamlessly integrate high-quality environmental education, sustainable schools, and environment-based workforce programs directly into environmental literacy plans, capital budgets, and related policy and planning documents.

Management Approach 4.3.3: Strengthen State and Local Networks
Scale and sustain systemic environmental literacy by building the capacity of state networks to support local networks focused on strengthening partnerships between formal and nonformal education communities in order to develop and implement strategic and efficient planning and implementation.

Outcome Workplan Timeline

- Drafting will begin after the Education Forum
- Final approval = June 2027

What level of work do we want the workplans to include?

Consider 3 Buckets:

- Collective Education Workgroup
- State level commitments
- State and regional network development

	2023-2024 MS, Student Outcome	Draft 2027 MS, Student Experiences
Management Approach **(higher level)**	Increase and improve resources for educators (pre-service, teachers, and non-formal) to support the development and implementation of Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for students.	**Scale and Sustain Inquiry-based Learning and MWEEs** Leverage intentionally connected regional, state, and local networks to secure funding, deliver training, and strengthen collaboration between formal and nonformal partners in support of systemic inquiry-based learning and MWEE programming.
Workplan Action Examples **(nested under Approach)**	Update the Facilitator's Guide (PA, VA, MD and Generic), MWEE 201, and MWEE 101 with the new MWEE definition, tools, and resources. *[Regional action]* Develop and update PA Gateway to Green modules… *[PA action]*	• *collective EWG actions* • *state-level commitments* • *networks*

Workplan Engagement

How do we want to engage our state networks and regional hubs in workplan development?

Indicator Revision Process

- Thank you for identifying your subject matter experts + folks who will be involved for your state.
- Process will likely start later this fall/winter

K-12 CTE Action Team Updates

- Representation so far: DE, PA, DC
- Focus: Revising/Advising Workforce Management Approaches

Management Approach 4.6.1: Engage schools and workforce development partners to increase student, educator, and job seeker awareness and understanding of skills and pathways to participate in green careers. Expand career awareness and navigation by developing educational resources, supporting educator professional development, integrating career exploration into environmental literacy programs, supporting work-based learning experiences, and embedding workforce programming into school district policies and plans.

High Impact Actions for Sustainable Schools – Science Need

Closing Announcements

*** 2027 Education Workgroup meetings are on your calendar! Reminder they will be from 10AM-12 on the second Monday of January/April/July/October*

Next Meeting: January 11th, 10-12