



## Building Capacity Equitably Across School Districts

Session Organizer: Tara Drennan, Chesapeake Bay Trust

10:40 am - 11:30 am

Session Padlet: <https://ncboestc.padlet.org/estcworkshops2/xwv2hta1zqd0wiws>

A sustainable environmental literacy movement demands strong relationships between school districts and their community partners. Nowhere is the power of collaboration more evident than in school districts who serve communities facing socioeconomic challenges. The supports needed for taking environmental literacy work to scale are being put in place, from states establishing guidelines to partners creating planning guides to emerging capacity building initiatives. These supports have the potential to empower and accelerate progress more equitably at the local level.

### Discussion Questions

- What are the perceived and real barriers of school districts and community partners working collaboratively?
- What are the opportunities to address barriers and build sustainable partnerships and capacity in school districts?
- How can we support building sustainable partnerships and capacity in school districts at a larger scale, and ensure attention and resources are distributed equitably?

### Three Things You Must Know:

- The power in schools districts and community organizations partnering and working collaboratively to leverage resources, time, and expertise to maximize impact and better accelerate environmental literacy and meet the needs of the communities they serve.
- The best practices and lessons learned from two different collaborative models for advancing environmental literacy at the district level.
- Overlooked school districts have an abundance of opportunities for unique partnerships and approaches to environmental literacy.

### Background & Key Resources

- Collective Impact Framework Resources
  - [National Council of Nonprofits](#) describes the use of the collective impact framework in nonprofits' approach to affecting social change.
  - [Stanford Social Innovation Review Article](#) of collective impact used in supporting change in public schools
- [Outdoor Learning Network Initiative](#)
- [Prince George's County, Maryland Environmental Literacy Plan](#)
- Environmental Literacy Plan Templates:
  - Virginia [Environmental Literacy Plan Template](#) for School Districts
  - Pennsylvania [Environmental Literacy Plan Template](#) for School Districts

### Session Speakers

Kristin Alexander, Executive Director, [Potomac Valley Audubon Society](#)

Tara Drennan, Senior Program Officer, [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)

Karen Mullin, Director of Professional Learning, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

James Roberson, Environmental Literacy Instructional Specialist, [Prince George's County Public Schools](#)