

Getting Started with Environmental Literacy

For Regional Leaders

What are KIPP Foundation's recommended steps for regions in the Environmental Literacy journey?

Getting started on your environmental literacy journey is hard! Below, KIPP Foundation has outlined suggested steps for teams to go through as they work to develop their EL plans. Steps have been taken

| Regional Milestones: | Recommended regional action steps: |
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| 1) Create a task force | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Identify regional point person to lead the effort B. Select team members to join the regional task force. (Teams are encouraged to include a diverse group of individuals across race, gender, and roles (teacher, school leaders, parents, students, and regional leaders academic leaders). |
| 2) Create shared vision & evaluate current state | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Provide professional learning for the regional task force team on environmental literacy (utilize KF Turnkey PD's- <i>coming in Spring 2020</i>). B. With your task force, create region-specific visions for env literacy (modified from national vision, as necessary/useful) C. Create a plan to evaluate the current status of environmental literacy in your region (e.g., teacher survey, capacity survey review with the leadership team, etc) D. Administer evaluation tool and collect data from across schools, students, families, etc. |
| 3) Select approach and priority areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Using evaluation data, select an approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Large regions</i>: decide on "all schools" approach with a focus on a certain grade-level/s or "pilot schools" approach with focus on certain grades or whole school build out. b. <i>Smaller regions</i>: KF recommendation is to work with an "all schools" approach with focus on certain grade-levels. B. Using evaluation data, identify first year/launch year site priorities for environmental literacy across all selected sites. C. Communicate approach and priority areas and gather input from local community |
| 4) Find local partners and curricular entry points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Identify and build regional partnerships with local environmental literacy providers (e.g. outdoor science programs, environmental justice organizations, etc) B. Identify and document areas for curriculum alignment. These areas may serve as great entry points for environmental literacy (AmplifyScience, Wheatley, Social Studies, Advisory, HS Science, etc). |
| 5) Build your action plan and get going! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Set clear goals and outputs for students (multi-year). B. Create multi-year action plan with short, intermediate and long term outcomes, that includes but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Curriculum and other classroom experiences (e.g., capstone project, project based learning project) b. Regional partnerships c. Professional learning d. Leadership |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. School nature spaces f. Field trips and field experiences g. Internships & Summer enrichment experiences h. Board resolutions/policies i. Communication j. Data collection and decision making processes <p>C. Active/updated action plans with action steps each year</p> |
| <p>6) Take it to the next level: environmental literacy and justice <u>for all!</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Provide professional learning for all teachers and leaders on environmental literacy B. Create green schoolyards/nature areas on or near campus C. Create Maps of local green spaces, accessible via walking field trips/public transit for all schools to utilize D. Solidify regional partnerships with local env literacy providers (e.g. outdoor science programs, environmental justice organizations, etc) E. Create Internships and Summer Experiences identified for students F. Host family education nights and community service events around environmental literacy (community tree-planting, trash pick up, garden/food health) G. Create student run Green Council to uphold recycling, composting, and waste reduction efforts at schools. |
| <p>7) Institutionalize Environmental Literacy in your region</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Scale environmental literacy so that all schools and grade-levels within region are represented and active participants B. Create Board resolutions/policy statements to support environmental literacy |