



“Tug on anything
at all and you’ll
find it connected
to everything else
in the universe.”

–John Muir



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**Education
and the
Environment
Initiative**



THE EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

Everyone and everything is linked to the environment. California's economic prosperity, the health of its citizens and our whole future depends on the health of the environment in which we live.

The Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) was signed into law in 2003 and mandates the development of a unified strategy to bring education about the environment into California's K-12 schools.

Integrating education about the environment into our K-12 school system will make instruction relevant to today's world and prepare students to be knowledgeable leaders and consumers who can make informed decisions about California's future.

The State agency partners leading this ground-breaking effort include the California Environmental Protection Agency, California Integrated Waste Management Board, California State Resources Agency, State Department of Education, State Board of Education, and the Office of the Secretary for Education.

EEI GOAL

The goal of EEI is the mastery of California's academic content standards and the State's Environmental Principles and Concepts. The EEI curriculum is being designed to fulfill clearly defined standards-based learning objectives that have been approved by the State Board of Education, Curriculum Commission, State Department of Education, and Office of the Governor's Secretary of Education and other agency partners.

"Kids are natural friends of the environment and they enjoy learning about the world around them. They also have the most to lose when their air and water quality is poor. Education about the environment helps children understand their natural surroundings and teaches them to live and work in ways that are beneficial to their own health and the health of the planet."

– Fran Pavley, Assembly Member



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS

More than 100 scientists and technical experts developed California's Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&C). The EP&C examines the interactions and interdependence of human societies and natural systems.

An abbreviated version of these complex ideas is listed below:

1. People depend on natural systems.
2. People influence natural systems.
3. Natural systems change in ways that people benefit from and can influence.
4. There are no permanent or impermeable boundaries that prevent matter from flowing between systems.
5. Decisions affecting resources and natural systems are complex and involve many factors.

The complete EP&C can be found at www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI.

