

H.R. 3036 - No Child Left Inside

Bill Summary

The No Child Left Inside Act will help take our nation's environmental education programs into the 21st century. The legislation will help enhance teacher training and professional development for teachers in environmental education and provide funds to help expand environmental education in schools.

Specifically, H.R. 3036:

- ✓ **Extends the National Environmental Education Act's (NEEA) authorization through FY 2009 at \$14,000,000.**
- ✓ **Amends the Environmental Education and Training Program (EETP) by requiring the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to consult with the Secretary of Education to make grants for professional development.**
- ✓ **Enhances EETP to provide opportunities for ongoing professional development in environmental education, including:**
 - bringing teachers into contact with working professionals in environmental fields;
 - supporting environmental education distance learning programs for teachers;
 - promoting environmental education summer workshops or institutes for teachers; and
 - encouraging mid-career environmental professionals to pursue careers in environmental education.
- ✓ **Establishes the National Capacity Environmental Education Grant Program (NCEEG) with a separate authorization of such sums for FY 2009. Authorizes the Secretary of Education to award 1-3 year competitive grants to non-profit organizations, State educational agencies (SEA), local educational agencies (LEA), or institutions of higher education to:**
 - develop and implement State academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and State curriculum frameworks in environmental education;
 - develop State Environmental Literacy Plans;
 - replicate or disseminate information about proven model environmental education programs;
 - develop and implement new policy approaches to advance environmental education at the State and national level;
 - conduct studies that evaluate the effectiveness of teaching environmental education as a separate subject, as an integrating concept, or to help students improve their assessment scores;
 - increase adoption of environmental content standards by States and school districts, including adoption and use of standards in textbook selection criteria; and
 - develop evidence-based approaches to build capacity to increase the number of K-12 environmental educators.
- ✓ **Requires an SEA receiving an NCEEG grant to either have a State environmental literacy plan in place or if they don't have a plan in place, use funds received under the grant program to develop a plan.**