



# An Opportunity to Be Part of a National Study!

## National Middle School Environmental Literacy Assessment (NELA) Recruitment FAQ's

- 1. What is NELA?** NELA is a multi-year research project. Phase I explored the level of environmental literacy among 6th and 8th grade students in public and private schools across the U.S. We used a survey to gather information on these students' environmental knowledge, skills, affective characteristics (feelings), and participation, as well as their grade level, age, gender, and ethnic background. We also gathered information on the curriculum and teachers in participating schools. In Phase II, we will gather student environmental literacy data from classes that incorporate environmental education as a part of instruction and compare these data to the baseline data from Phase I. We will also seek funding for a Phase III of the project, which will offer opportunities to many other researchers to conduct in-depth investigations of the variables associated with success in schools and programs that appear to be effective in the development of environmental literacy.
- 2. What organizations are participating in NELA?** NELA is a multi-year research project funded through an inter-agency agreement between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and supported by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). It is being led by a team of researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Florida Institute of Technology, and the Center for Instruction, Staff Development and Evaluation. Contact information can be found on the reverse of this sheet.
- 3. What programs are eligible to participate in Phase II of the NELA project?** We are recruiting outstanding EE programs that are in place at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Our data collection sites might include: (1) schools which are part of networks, e.g., EIC schools, EarthForce/Green Schools, Blue Ribbon School, etc.; (2) schools which implement programs or approaches, e.g. WET, WILD, PLT, IEEIA, etc.); (3) environmentally focused Charter and Magnet Schools; and (4) Independent Schools. Program/Network leaders are encouraged to nominate exemplary schools using their programs. Charter, magnet, and independent schools are encouraged to self-nominate. As we consider schools for participation, we will be looking for those



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in which a particular EE program or approach has been in place at the middle grade level (grades 6, 7, and/or 8) for two or more years and in a minimum of two classes. Each participating school will receive a modest stipend as incentive for participation. You can nominate a program (or self-nominate your own program) by completing the attached form. Mail or fax it (by December 15<sup>th</sup>) to the contact listed on the form.

4. **What data are being collected?** The NELA includes four surveys:
  - One on **School Information** that identifies the demographics of participating schools,
  - One on **Program Information** that identifies a range of information about the school's curriculum, including environmental aspects,
  - One on **Teacher Information** for the teachers of classes participating in the survey to complete, and
  - The **Middle School Environmental Literacy Assessment Survey (MSELS)** for students to complete.
5. **How many schools, classes, teachers and students will participate in the Assessment?** Seventy schools will be selected. We anticipate that 300 - 400 classes and teachers will participate and about 5,000 students.
6. **What is the project timeline?** Program recruitment will close on December 15, 2008. We hope to identify participating schools and classrooms during February 2009 and to administer all four surveys in April and May of 2009.

**Contact information:**

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**Other Research Team Members:**

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**2008 – 2009 National Environmental Literacy Assessment: Grades 6, 7, & 8  
 Nomination Form**

***Deadline for nomination - December 15, 2008!***

Please complete this form in ink. Detach it and mail or fax it to:

*Literacy Program Nomination  
 Center for Instruction, Staff Development and Evaluation  
 1925 New Era Road  
 Carbondale, IL 62901  
 Fax # 618-457-8927 (Won't fax? Try pressing \*51 as soon as the phone picks up.)*

This national research project is designed to measure the effectiveness of outstanding environmental education programs with respect to the goal of environmental literacy. Said programs can be formal, informal, nonformal or a combination of these types. The programs can be national in scope but also may be very local in nature. Nominees should represent exemplary 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade EE classrooms. All programs nominated will be considered for inclusion in the study. Final selections will be the responsibility of the Research Team.

***Please inform your nominee(s) that a member of the research team will follow-up for additional information.***

Nominator's Name (Your Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Contact Information including phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**School(s) in which program is in place (name up to three (3) schools – continue on reverse)**

1. School name \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (Address, Phone and E-mail): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***Use spaces on the reverse side to nominate additional schools. Thank you.***

2. School name \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (Address, Phone and E-mail): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. School name \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (Address, Phone and E-mail): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, please contact one of the individuals listed below.

Bill McBeth, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, [mcbeth@uwplatt.edu](mailto:mcbeth@uwplatt.edu), 608-342-1284;

Karen Cifranick, CISDE, [cifranick@yahoo.com](mailto:cifranick@yahoo.com), 757-480-1107;

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