



# Environmental Literacy in the Chesapeake Bay Region

**Tom Ackerman**  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

**Shannon Sprague**  
NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

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Education Workgroup to  
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# WHY IS THIS **IMPORTANT?**

- Protecting natural resources
- Engaging students in rich learning experiences
- Preparing students for the new economy and citizenship



What is a  
**MWEE?**



A group of people are hiking on a dirt path through a forest. The path is surrounded by green grass and trees with fresh green leaves. In the foreground, two women are walking towards the camera. Behind them, several other hikers are visible. A large text overlay is positioned in the center-right of the image.

WHAT'S A  
**MWEE** ?





# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY GOAL

- GOAL: Enable students in the region to graduate with the knowledge and skills to act responsibly to protect and restore their local watershed
- OUTCOMES:
  - Hands-on Student Experiences (MWEEs)
  - Sustainable Schools
  - Supportive Policies & Metrics

ENVIRONMENTAL  
**LITERACY**  
MODEL ELM



# 1. STATUS





# CONDITIONS FOR **SUCCESS**

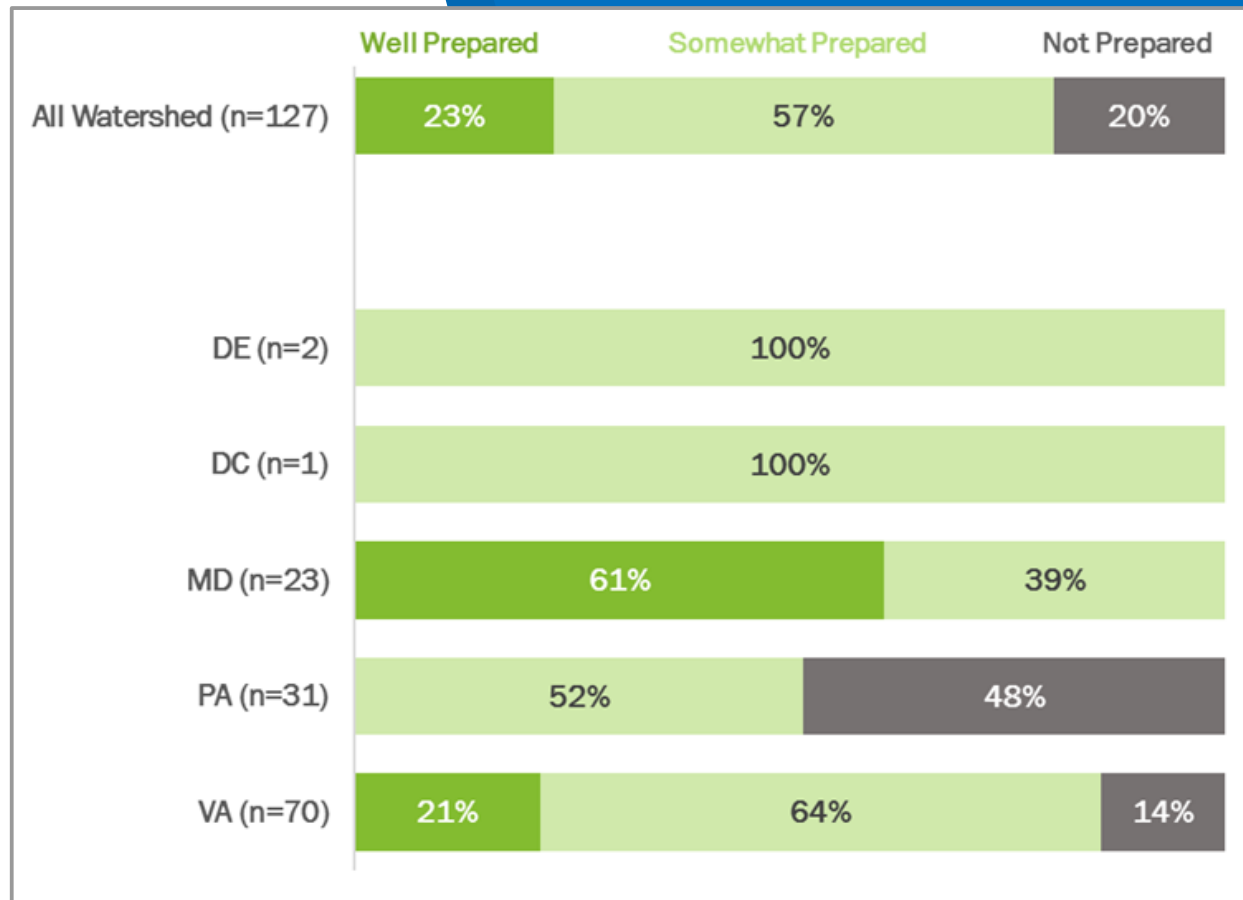
- Environmental Literacy Plan
- State Working Group
- Dedicated staff at Department of Education
- Adequate response to ELIT survey
- Funding to support implementation



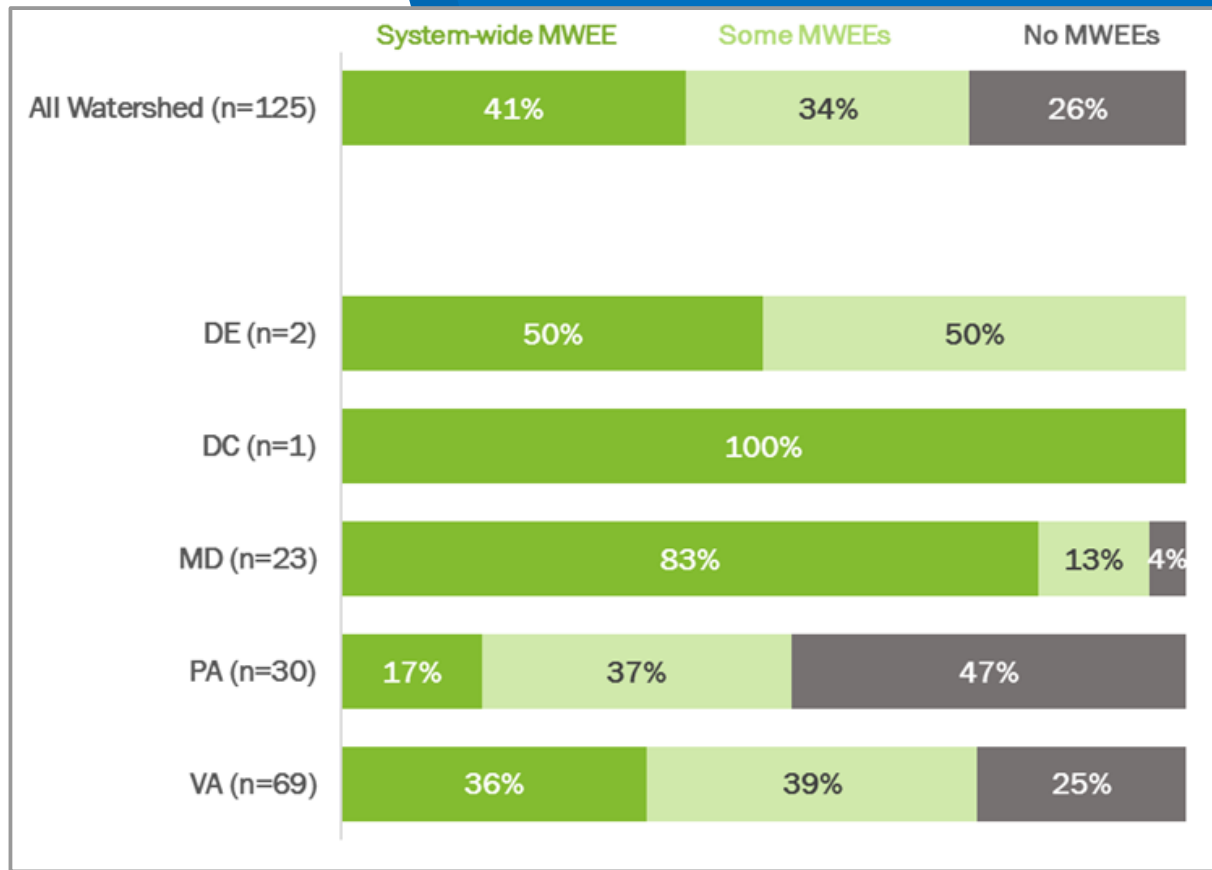


# CONDITIONS FOR **SUCCESS**

	Envi Literacy Plan	State Working Group	Dedicated staff (DOE)	Data (ELIT responses)	Adequate funding
PA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

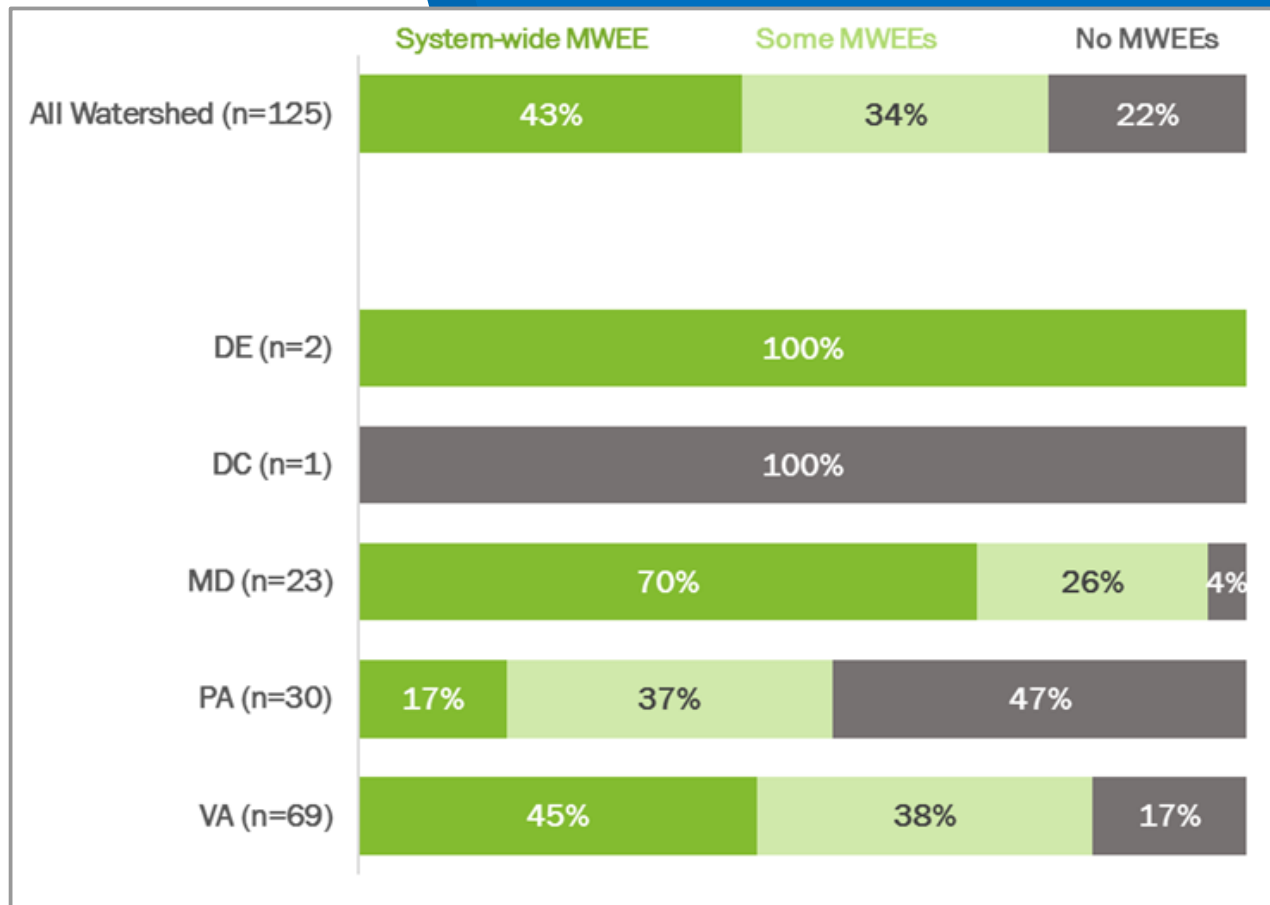


# District Preparedness

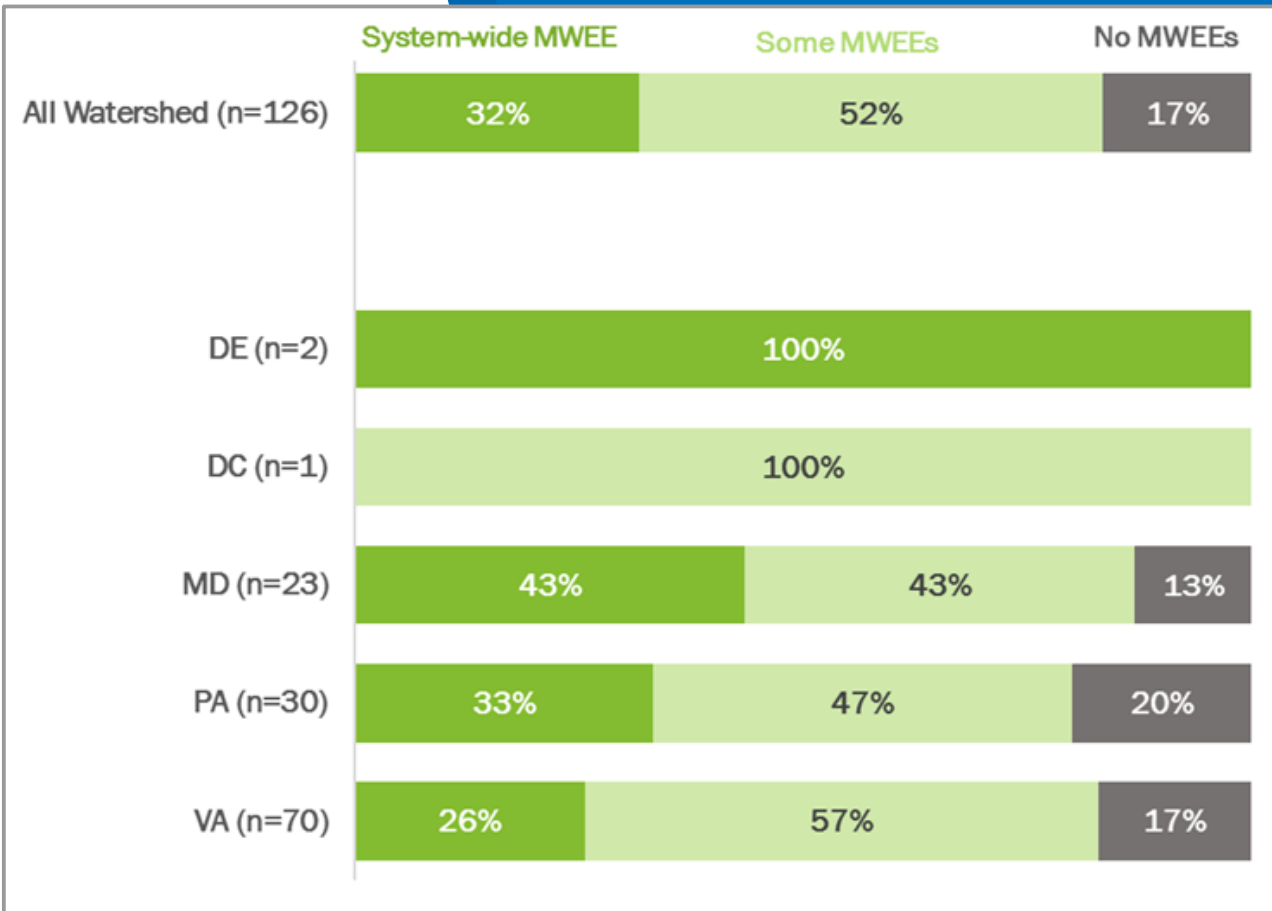


# Elementary



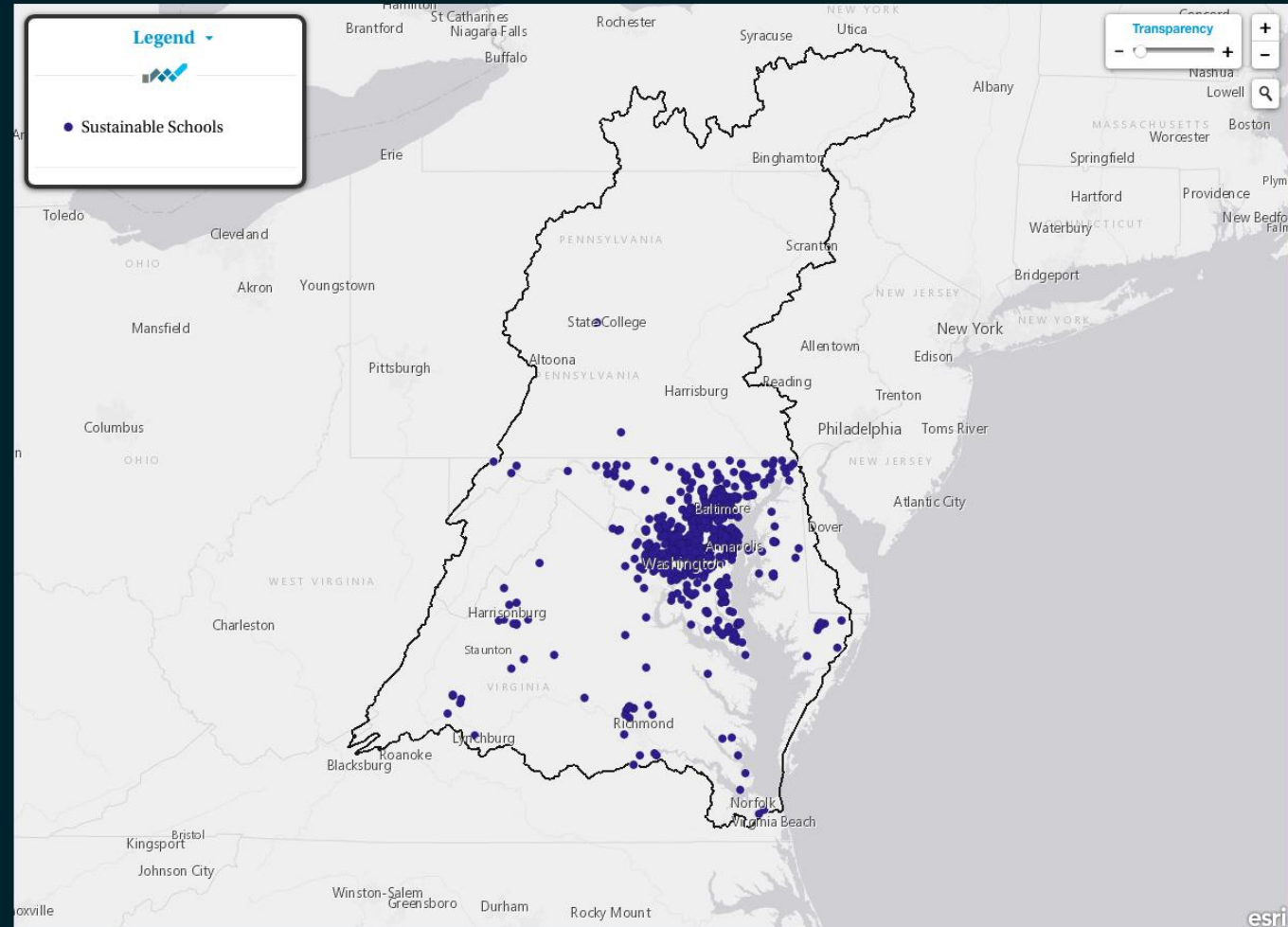


Middle



High

## Certified Sustainable Schools in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2017)



# Schools



# NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

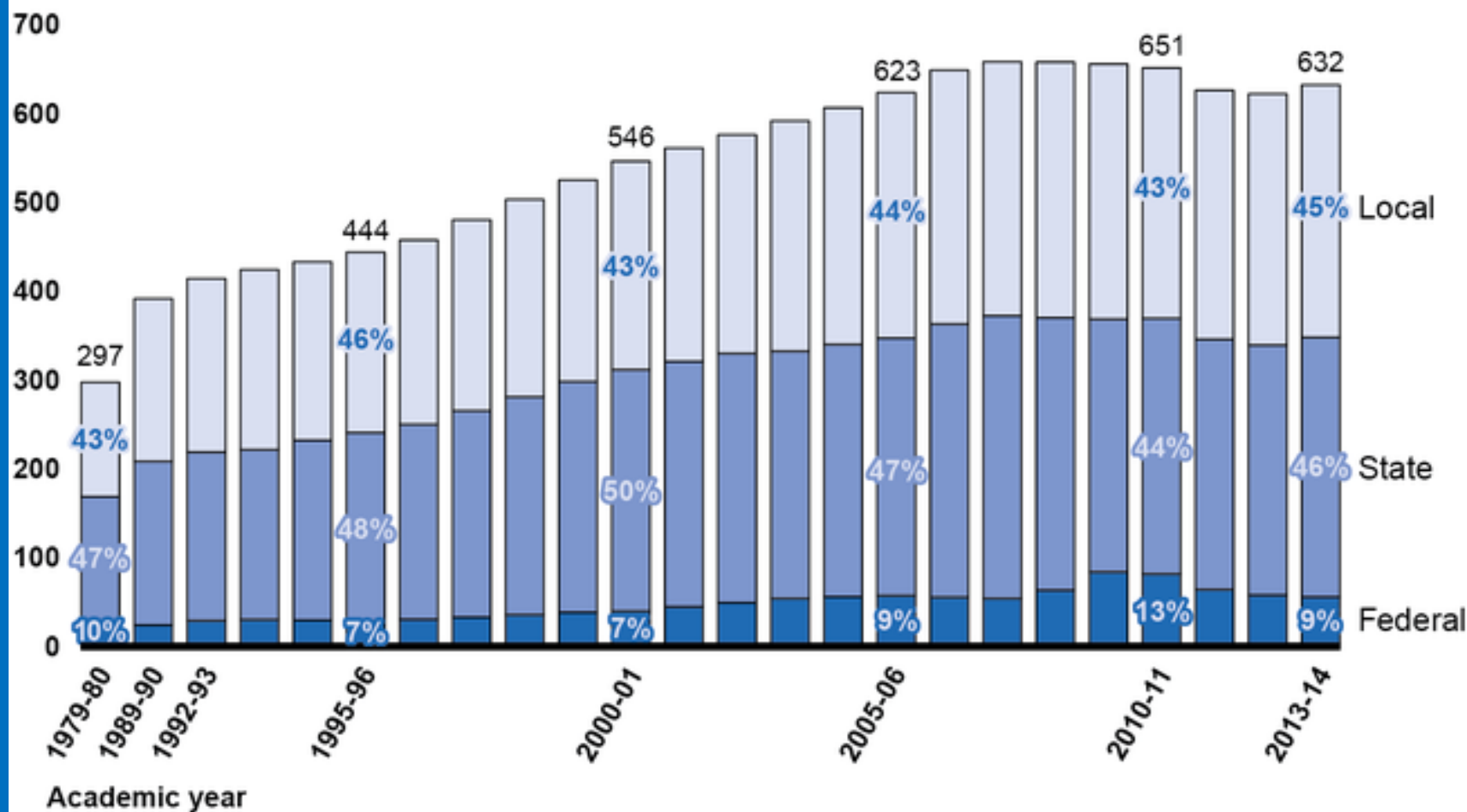
- Region recognized as national leaders
- Hosted Leadership Summits for superintendents of education and natural resource secretaries
- Created the MWEE Guide for Educators
- State Leadership
  - Maryland Graduation Requirement
  - Virginia Environmental Science Diploma Seal
  - Pennsylvania Environment & Ecology Standards

# 2.

## FUNDING



# Funding source (in billions of dollars)





# NOAA B-WET

- Supports systemic MWEEs
- \$7.2M National program operating in 7 regions
- \$2.7M in the Chesapeake Bay watershed annually
- Since 2002 Chesapeake B-WET has supported...



*220 grants totaling more than  
\$35M*

*Over half a million student MWEEs*

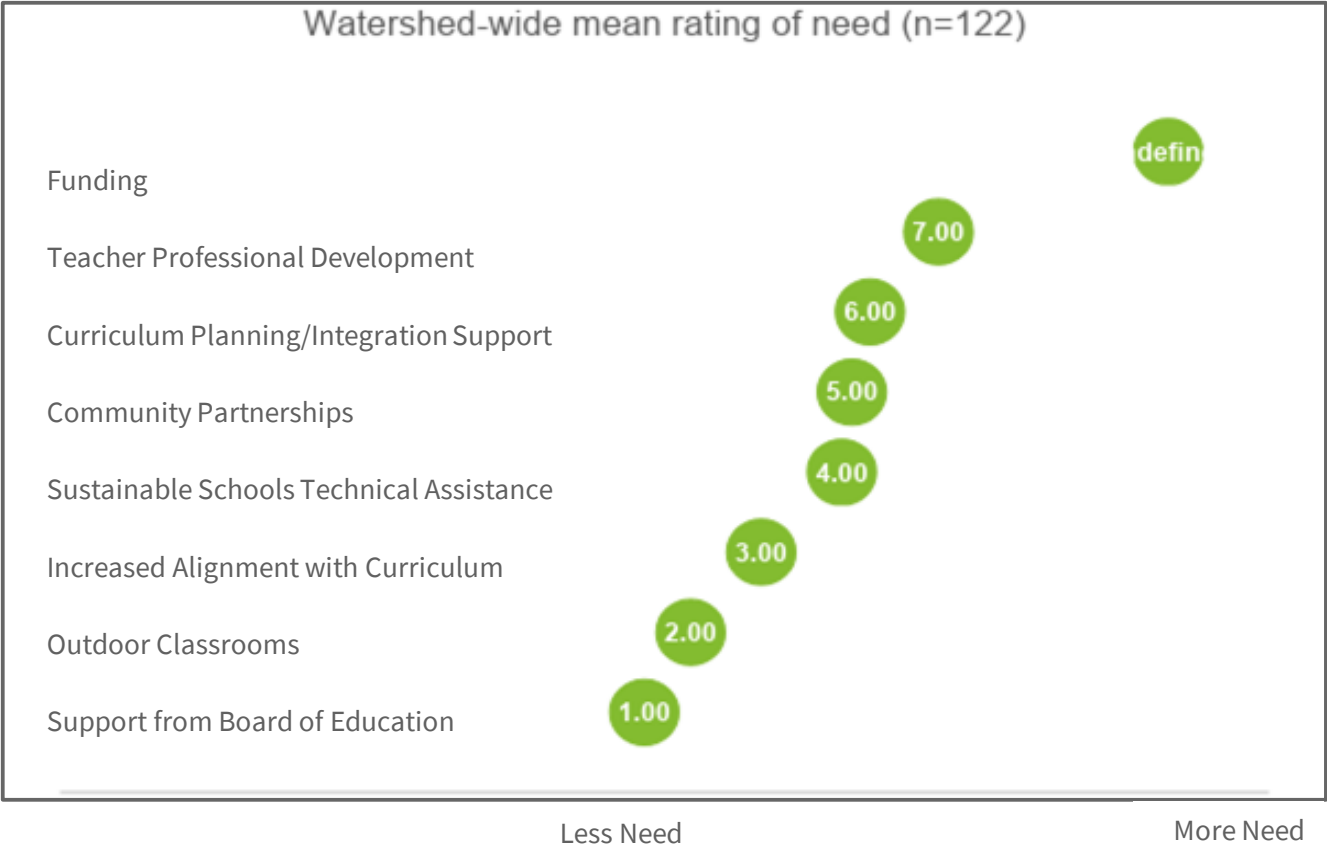
*Over 17,000 teachers with  
professional development*

# 3.

## RECOMMENDATIONS



# DISTRICT PRIORITIES



# RECOMMENDATIONS - REGIONAL

- Continued funding for:
  - NOAA B-WET
  - EPA Environmental Education Grants
  - State Funding Sources
- Promote participation in the Leadership Summit
- Support State Working Groups





# RECOMMENDATIONS - MARYLAND

Fund field-based educational experiences (MWEEs), including transportation for all students

Instruct MHEC to include Environmental literacy in pre-service teacher training



# RECOMMENDATIONS - PENNSYLVANIA

- Fund the 2004 PA Bay Watershed Education Act
- Re-establish State Working Group
- Establish Sustainable Schools Certification Program



# RECOMMENDATIONS - VIRGINIA

- Fund Student MWEEs for every student
- Reinstatue (2/4) state positions to coordinate EE
- Elevate the scope and composition of VRUEC





# QUESTIONS?