

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT AL EDUCATION

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

**STUDENT
ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERACY
EXPERIENCE**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERACY PLANNING**

WORKFORCE

CONCLUSION



INTRODUCTION

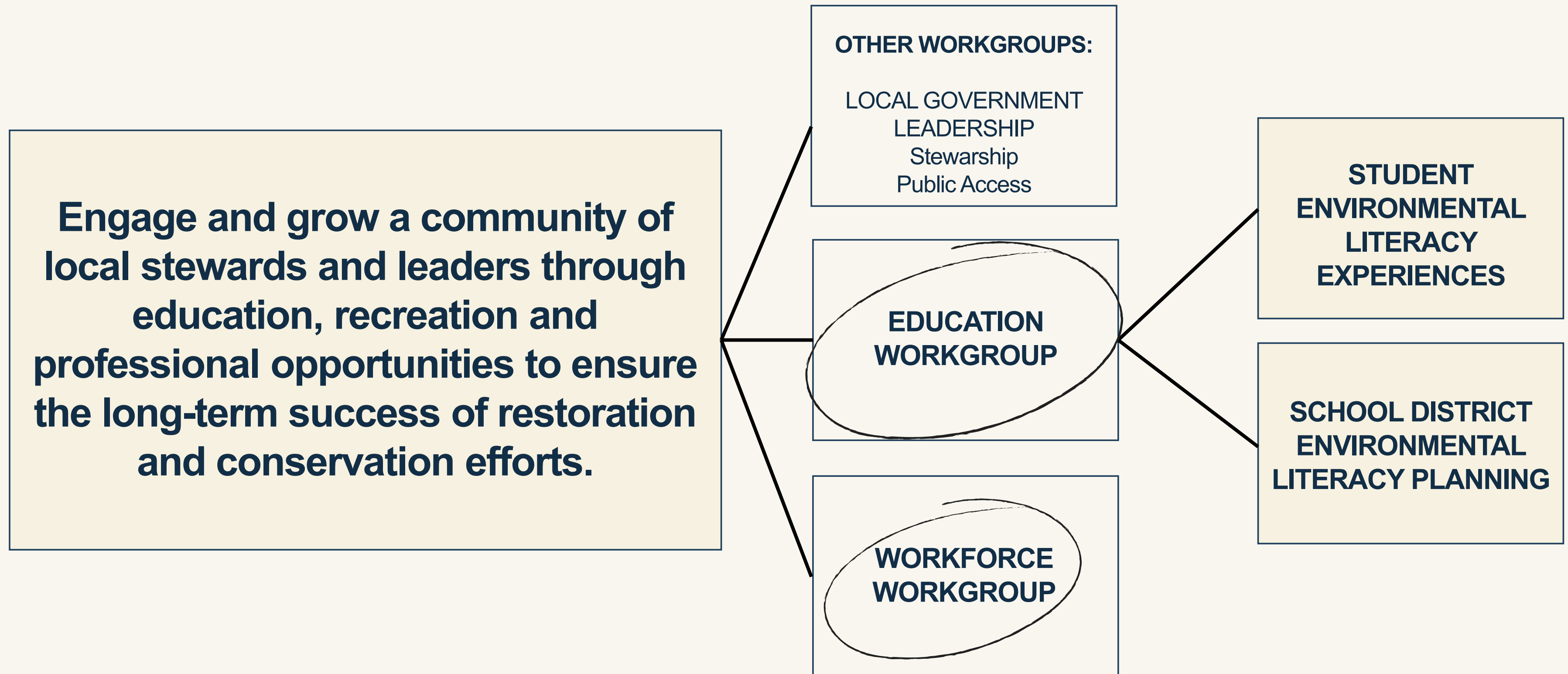


EDUCATION *vs* LITERACY

FROM PROCESS  TO PRODUCT

	ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
Definition	A process of teaching individuals about the environment and sustainability through knowledge-building, experiences and skills development.	The outcome of effective environmental education that individuals know, feel and can do to make informed decisions and take responsible action.
Focus	Teaching and learning methods (programs, lessons, curricula).	The results of that teaching (knowledge, attitudes, skills, dispositions).
Example	A teacher leads a unit on watersheds with a field trip to a local river.	A student understands how their actions impact watershed health and chooses to reduce pollution through personal and civic actions.
Goal	Provide opportunities to learn about and engage with the environment.	Develop individuals who are ready to think critically, make informed decisions and act.

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES





STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY EXPERIENCES



STUDENT EXPERIENCES OUTCOME



CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT



OUTCOME

Increase the number of students who participate in inquiry-based environmental literacy instruction with the aim of each student receiving at least one Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience, or MWEE, in elementary, middle and high school.

By 2040, reach jurisdictional targets to result in at least 75% of public school students being enrolled in a school district that offers a MWEE for all students.

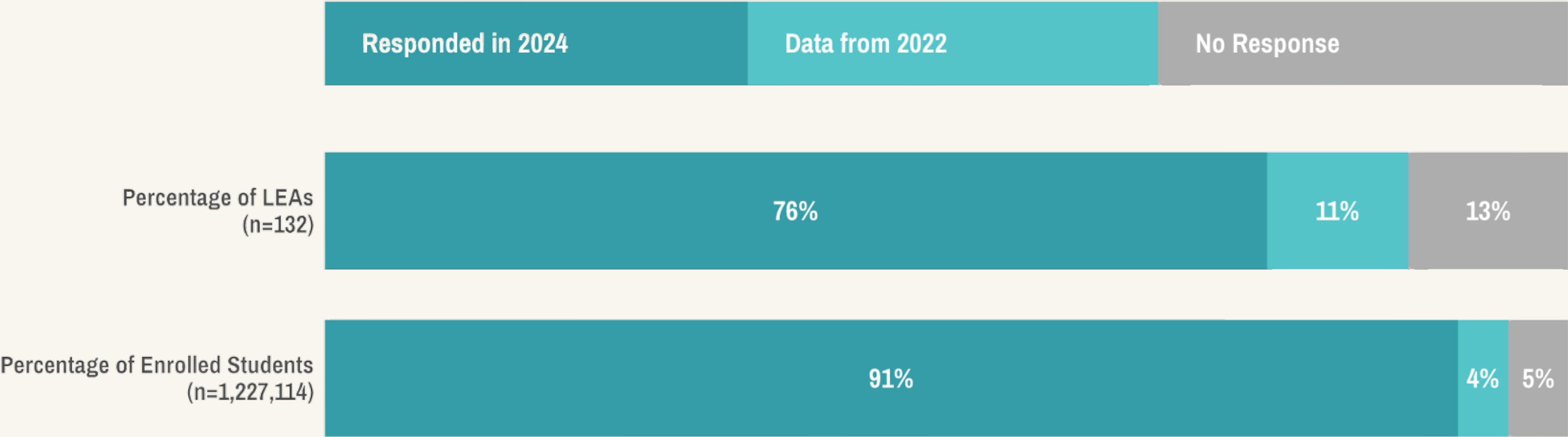


VIRGINIA TARGET

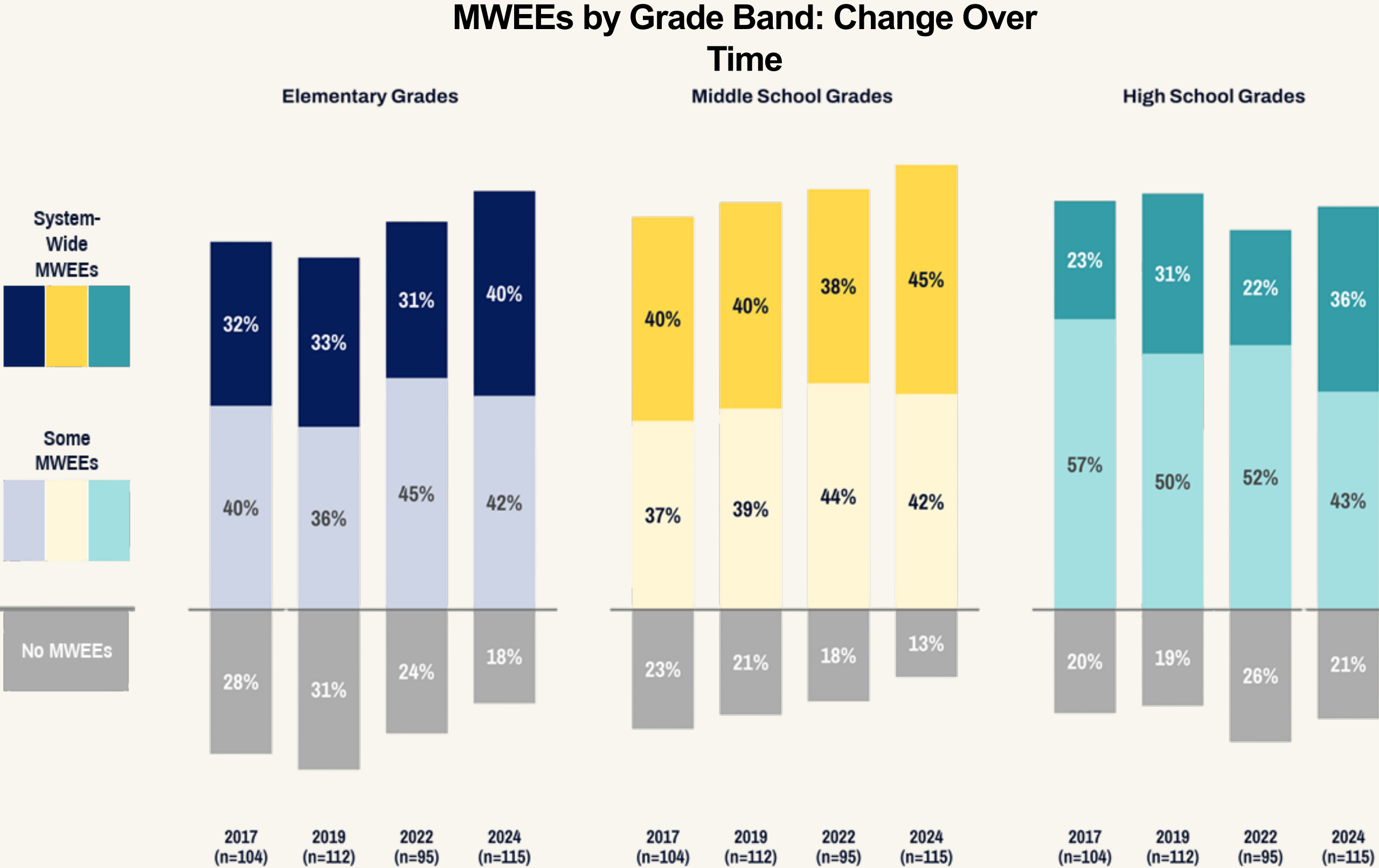
By 2040, 85% of public school students in Virginia will be enrolled in a school division that offers a MWEE for all students.

ELIT DATA

ELIT Response Rate: Percentage of all LEAs and of Enrolled Students across Virginia in 2024



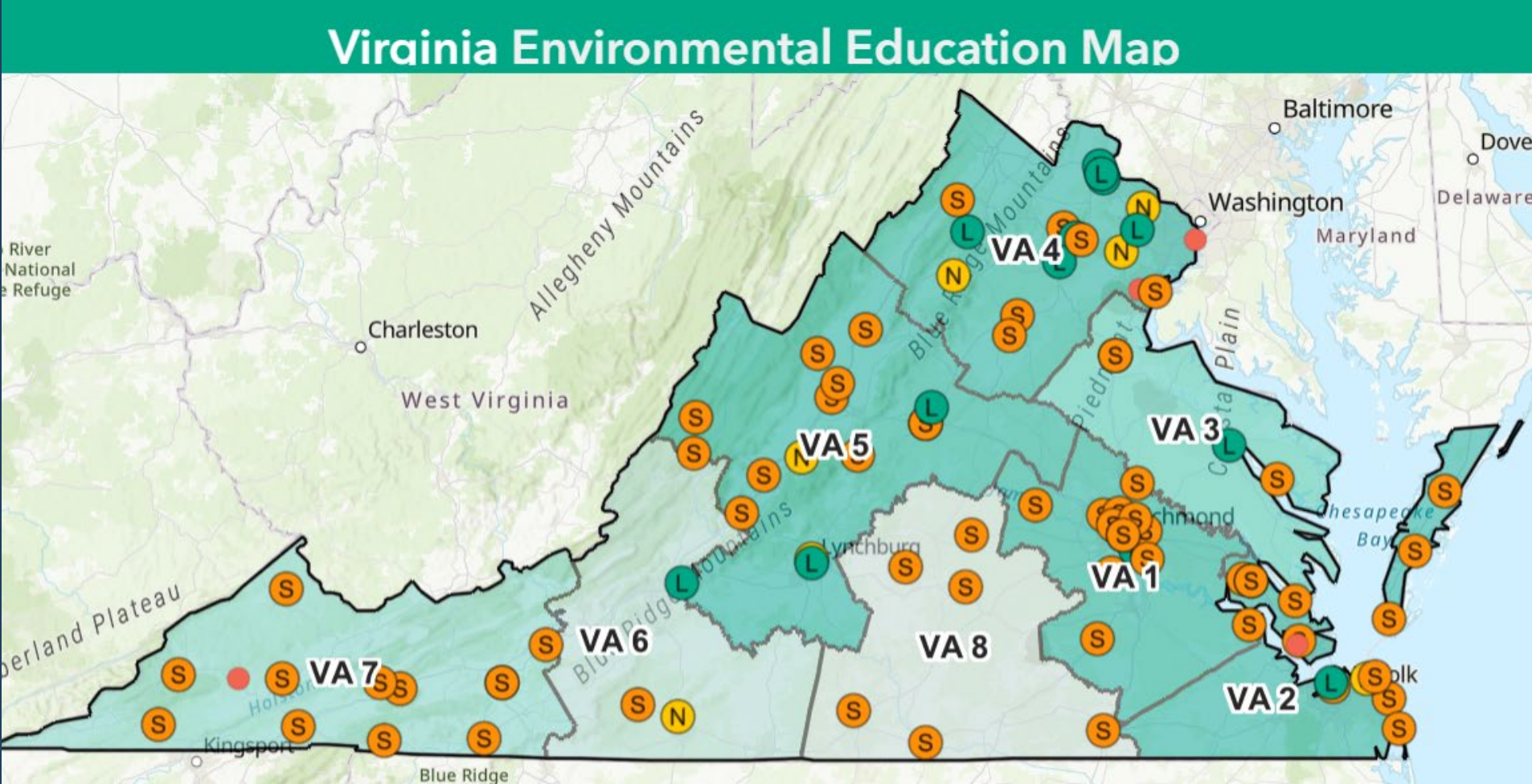
ELIT
DATA





INTERACTIVE SOURCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA

INTERACTIVE SOURCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA



Explore the Map

*Find environmental education providers
and programs across Virginia.*

Discover the Dashboard

*Dive into data layers and insights to
inform your outreach, planning or
classroom.*

Learn More & Sign Up

*See how iseeVA can transform
environmental education statewide and
add your own programs to the directory*



STUDENT EXPERIENCES OUTCOME

FUNDING FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCES- DCR MWEE GRANTS

	Applicants inside the Bay	Additional Applicants / inquiries outside the Bay	Awarded	Maximum allowed request	Funds Requested	Students/ educators served
2023	8		8	\$85,000	\$165,007	2928/133
2024	18	0 / 4	12	\$85,000	\$700,500	14,090/ 409
2025	25	0 / 9	12	\$85,000	\$1,502,061	5544 / 424
2026	22	1 / 6	9	\$45,000	\$528,510	7072 /471
2027	35	2 / 7	8	\$45,000	\$1,367,000	Available June 2027

**\$250,000 annually within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*



SCHOOL DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLANNING





CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT



OUTCOME

Increase the number of school districts that have policies and practices in place that support environmental education and sustainable schools.

By 2040, reach all jurisdictional targets for the number of public school districts that are well prepared to deliver a comprehensive and system-wide approach to environmental literacy.



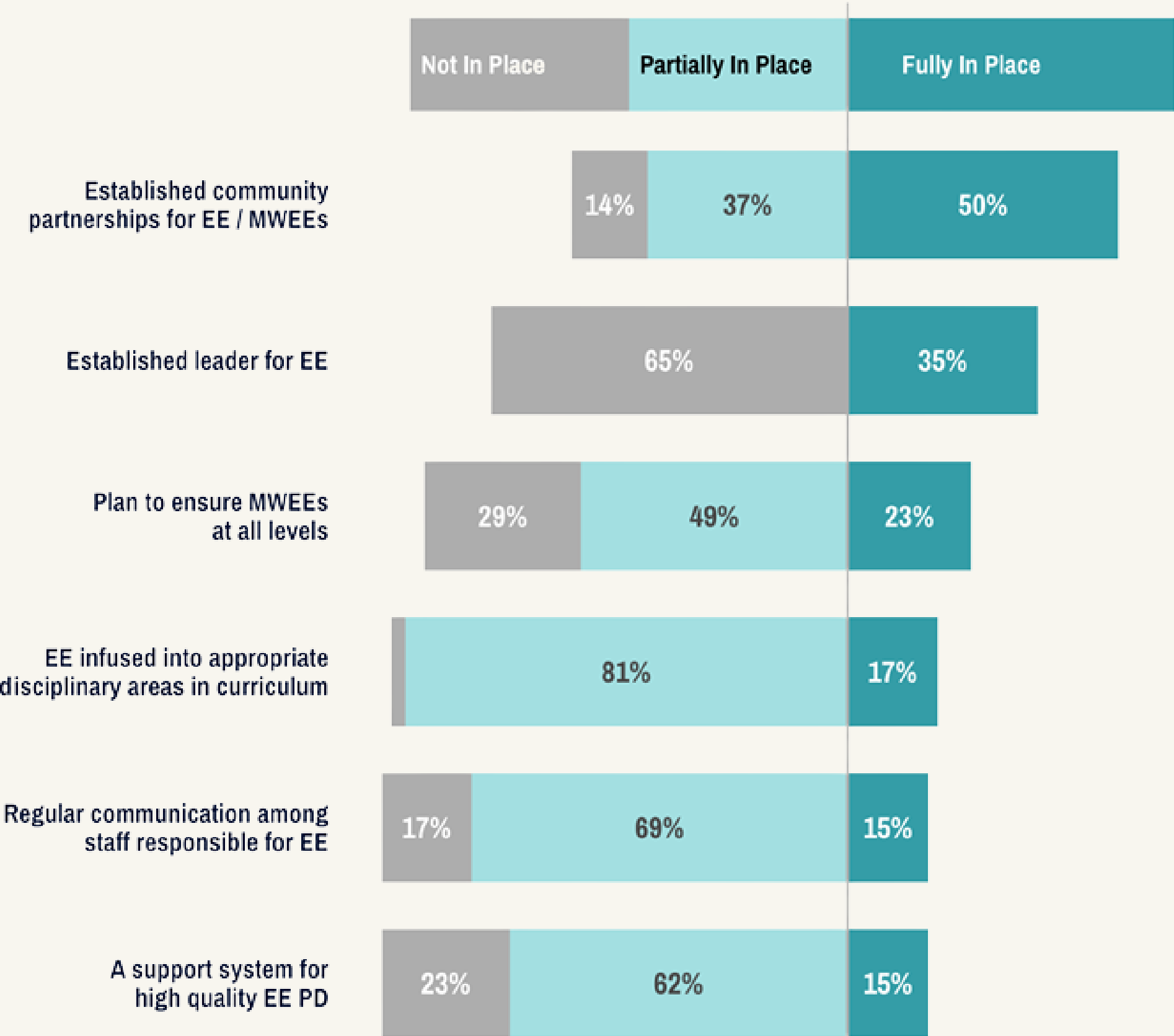
VIRGINIA TARGET

By 2040, 32% of school divisions in Virginia are well prepared to deliver a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy.

ELIT DATA

Degree of Readiness for Each Element of LEA Planning and Infrastructure.

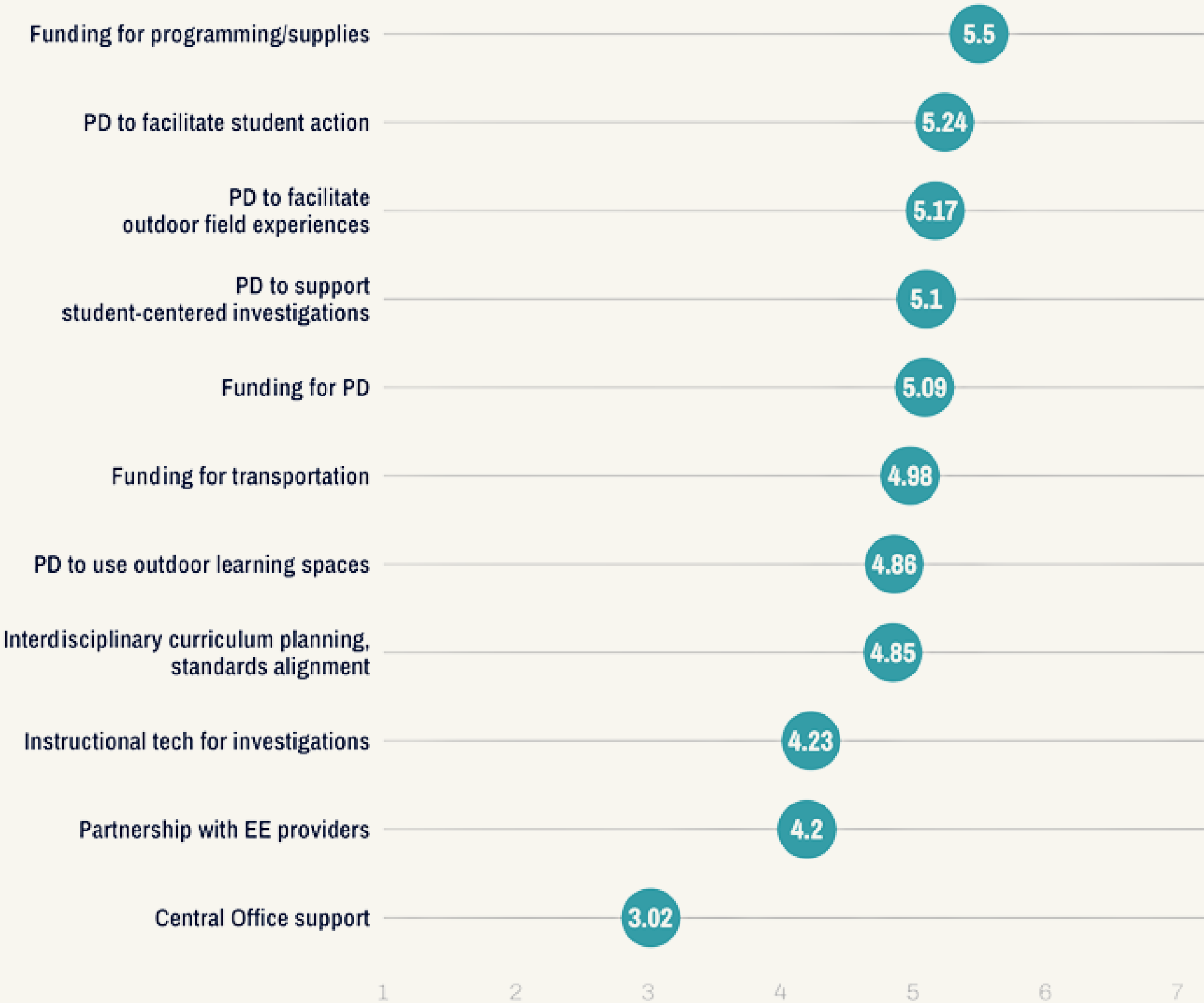
Distribution of ratings to individual items in the planning indicator by all LEAs in Virginia (n=115)



ELIT DATA

Responding LEAs rated their level of need for support in each area from 1 to 7, with 7 being the greatest need. Number of respondents to each item varies because some LEAs skipped items (n=108-112)

Average Ratings of Need for Support in Each Area Statewide



VIRGINIA K-12 ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STRATEGIC PLAN

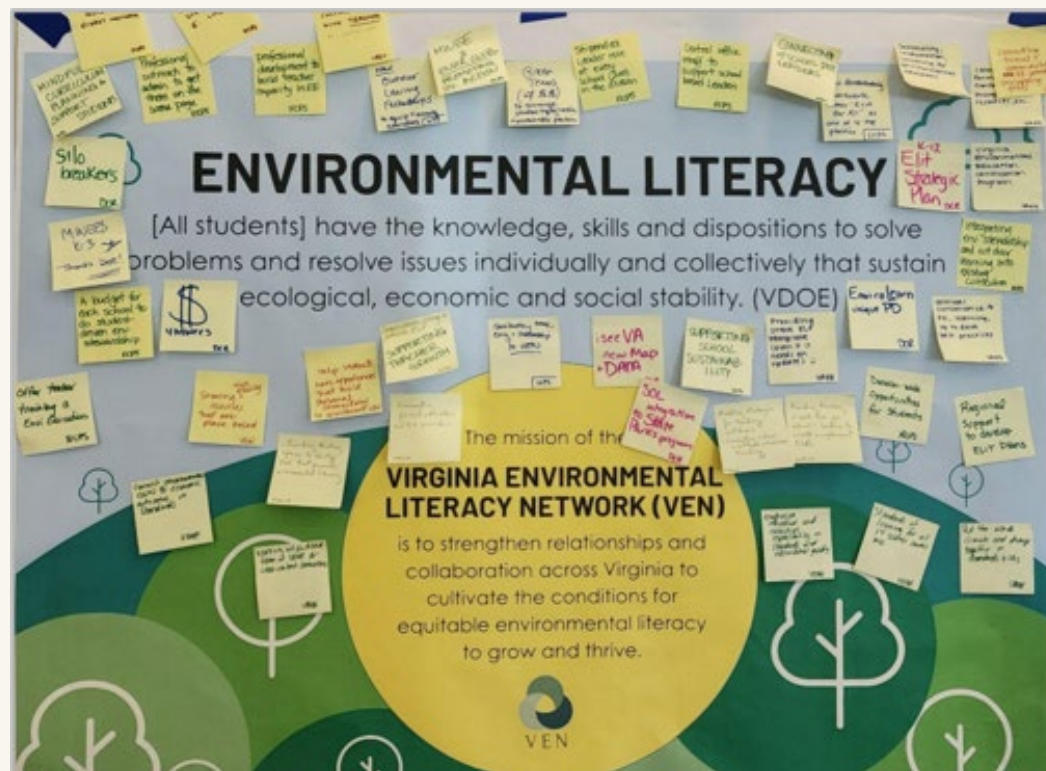
3 year introduction cycle 2026-2029 (currently awaiting approval)

Goals:

1. Network Cultivation
2. Educator Support
3. Student-Centered Approach
4. Resource Optimization



VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY NETWORK



State-wide network of networks, across 8 VDOE regions

Mission: To strengthen relationships & collaboration across Virginia to cultivate the conditions for equitable environmental literacy to grow and thrive.

Current Priorities:

- Promote knowledge sharing/networking
- Support Environmental Literacy Planning
- Support Regional Hubs

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PLAN TEMPLATE

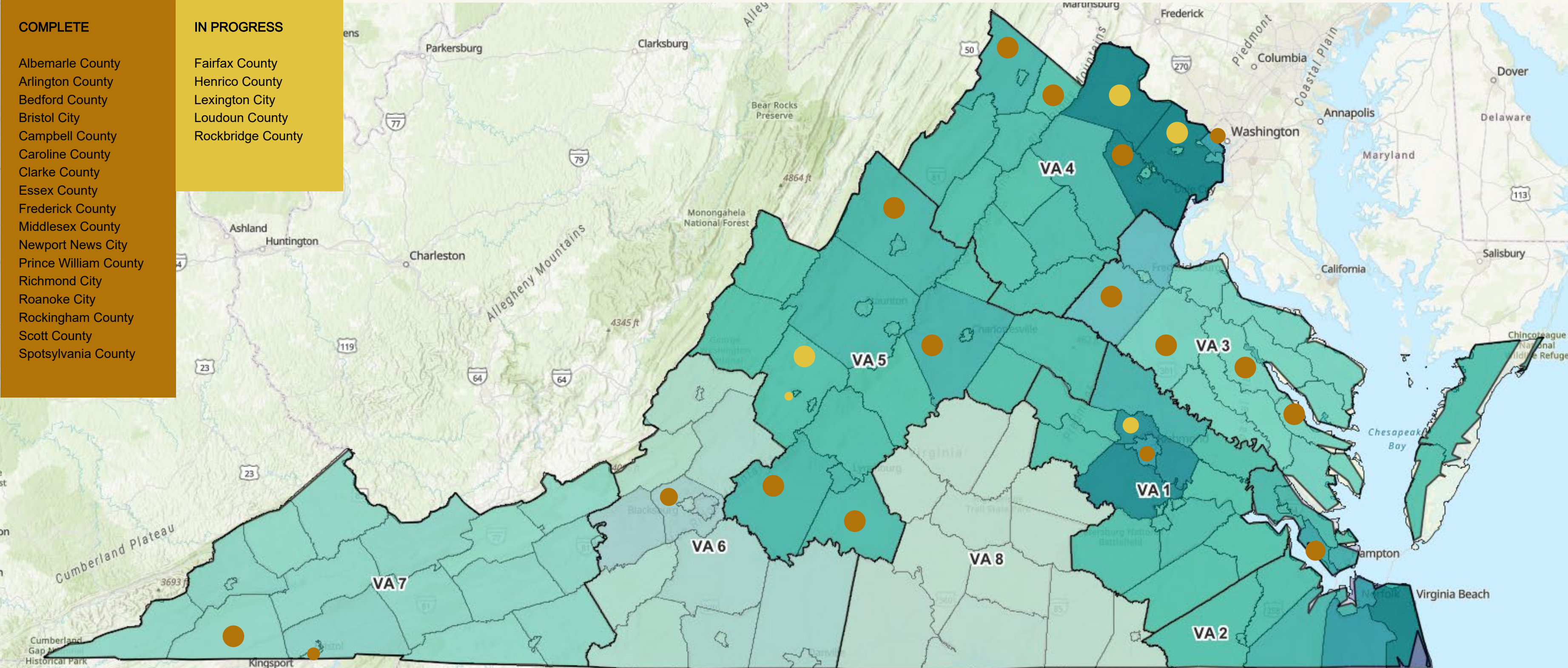


SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING OUTCOME

- Working towards a critical mass of Environmental Literacy Plans (ELPs)
- Collaborative effort between formal and community environmental educators, state organizations & education leaders.
- Designed as a Toolkit/Workbook for educators, administrators, and organizations to foster environmentally literate graduates and communities
 - Provides resources, prompts, and suggestions for goals, learning experiences, funding and more.
- VEN Hub Leaders will act as supporting experts for divisions working on ELPs.
 - Example in Action: Bristol Public Schools



DIVISION LEVEL ELP STATUS





WORKFORCE



WORKFORCE OUTCOME



CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT



OUTCOME

Increase the ability of all job seekers in the watershed to understand, participate and succeed in career pathways that positively support the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

By 2040, inform and grow implementation of strategies that help students, educators and job seekers become aware of and understand environmental careers, and the in-demand skills and pathways to access these opportunities.

THE PIPELINE

K - 12

- Career Awareness and interest through MWEEs, literacy planning, and outdoor / hands on learning
 - DCR's Office of Environmental Education
- Career exposure early
- Initial skill-building
- NGOs like Groundworks RVA get students involved

Higher Education

- Community College *Fast Forward Program*
- Degree + workforce designed programs to support green / conservation focused careers
- Workforce credential grants through SCHEV

Apprenticeship / Internship

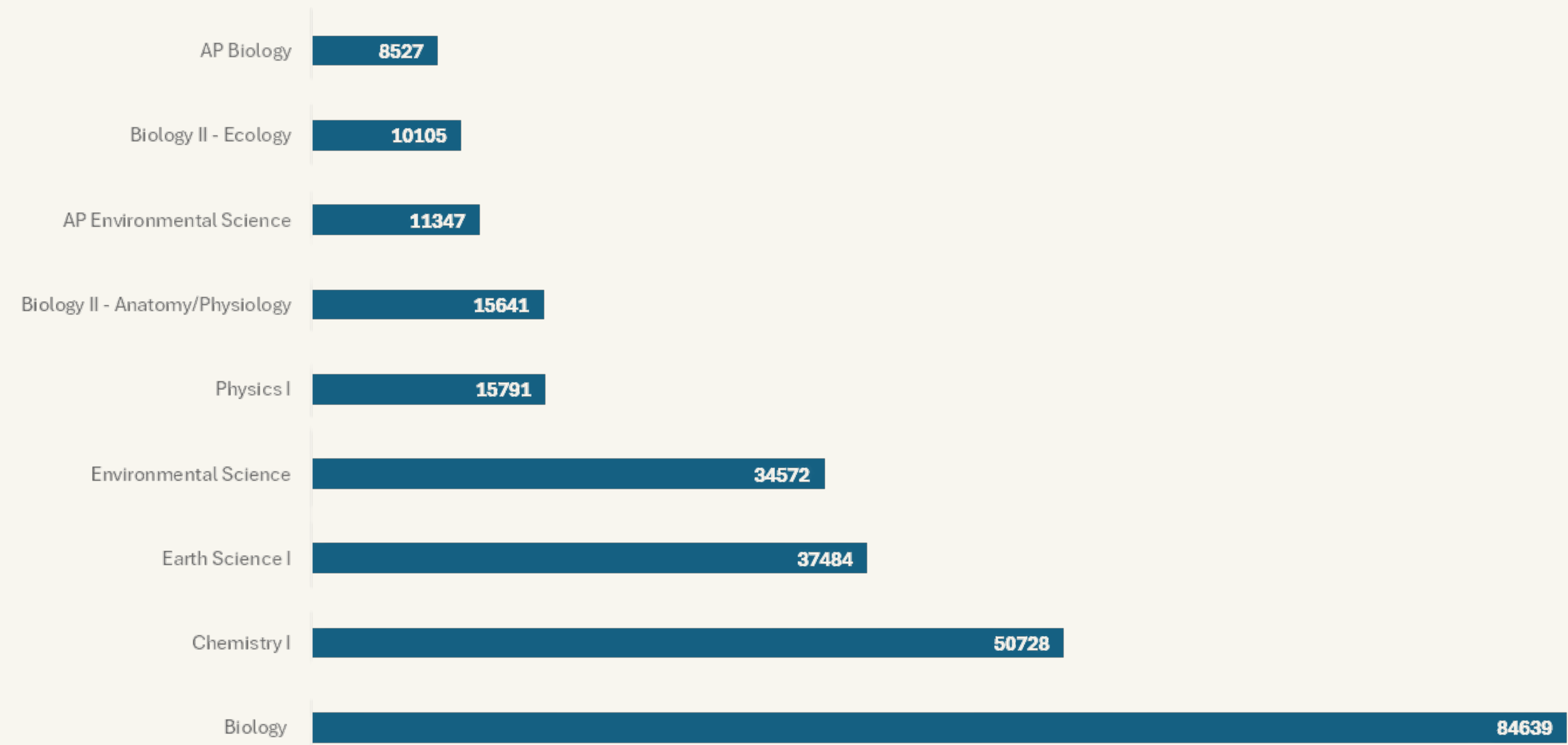
- VA Works
 - Registered apprenticeship program
 - Apprenticeship Pathways Program for CTE Centers
 - Partnerships with VDEP and Go Virginia

Employment

- Incumbent worker training
- Job placement services
- Analytical Tracking for Success
 - Wage + retention rates
 - Sustainability

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Science Course Enrollment School Year 2025-2026



**

CONCLUSION



MWEE SUPPORT

- Average cost
 - Student MWEE experience \$24.50
 - Train an educator \$50
 - Purchase classroom materials \$200
- What works
 - Sustainability requirements
- How do we meet the 85% outcome?
 - Increase funding
 - Focus of areas without current MWEEs in place
 - Continue sustainability requirements



Year	Funds Allocated	Applicants	Awards	Funds Requested	Students/Educators Served
2023	\$250,000	8	8	\$165,007	2,928 / 133
2024	\$250,000	18	12 (15 with \$86,000 rollover)	\$700,500	14,090 / 409
2025	\$250,000	25	12	\$1,052,061	5,544 / 424
2026	\$250,000	22	9 (10 with \$18,900 rollover)	\$528,510	7,072 / 471
2027	\$250,000	35	8	\$1,367,000	Predicted 8000 / 487
2028	\$500,000	35	16 to 20	\$1,500,000	15,000 / 800

ELIT SUPPORT

Today:

17 of 131 school divisions have completed Environmental Literacy Plans.

There is currently no dedicated statewide funding stream supporting environmental literacy planning and implementation.

PLAN

Help more school divisions develop locally relevant Environmental Literacy Plans.

Move from 17 plans toward statewide participation.

IMPLEMENT

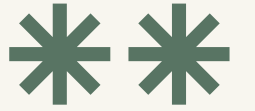
Provide competitive grants to turn plans into action.

Curriculum, outdoor learning, teacher training, student experiences, and community projects

BUILD CAPACITY

Fund the organizations that make implementation possible.

Regional hubs, nonprofits, state partners, universities, and other technical assistance providers, not just school divisions



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

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