



Dear Secretary Duncan,

As you consider strategies to strengthen and amend ESEA, I urge you to consider the provisions laid out in the No Child Left Inside Act, which would expand opportunities for environmental and outdoor education in America's schools. Comprehensive environmental education has been shown to improve student achievement across core subject areas and increase engagement in learning. Environmental education is critical to providing our students with the knowledge and skills to tackle complex problems, and succeed in a green economy. Increasing environmental literacy is a proven way to expand the academic pipeline for STEM subjects and is increasingly seen as an innovative way to give students the sense of wonder and excitement so essential to encouraging scientific inquiry. What's more, getting children outside and active promotes a healthy lifestyle that is essential to fighting obesity and reducing symptoms associated with attention deficit disorder, depression, and stress.

Leaving environmental education out of ESEA would be a missed opportunity to improve education while helping to systemically address the Obama administration's other priorities of energy independence, a strengthened economy, and a healthier nation. I support the inclusion of NCLI in the reauthorized ESEA.

Sincerely,

Carol Clark Montgomery
Manager, Clark Gardens