

**§5303. Outdoor education program provider requirements**

This section governs the requirements for outdoor education program providers. [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]

**1. Program curricula.** The program must:

- A. Use the outdoors and local ecosystems as the primary context to support hands-on learning, including lessons, meals and on-site living; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
  - B. Engage students in safe and age-appropriate activities; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
  - C. Focus on the State's outdoor heritage, science, engineering, technology, mathematics, health, environment and natural resources and sustainability by including a strong academic component that supports overall academic achievement and career trajectories and connects science with other subjects to support students' understanding of:
    - (1) Conserving and developing marine and estuarine resources;
    - (2) Conducting scientific research;
    - (3) Promoting the State's coastal fishing industries;
    - (4) Protecting and managing fish, game and other wildlife and their habitats, including restoring endangered species;
    - (5) Promoting agriculture, conservation, forestry, land management and the well-being of domestic animals;
    - (6) Safely enjoying the outdoors; and
    - (7) Promoting public health; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
  - D. Develop students' social and emotional skills, including teamwork, citizenship, self-awareness and community responsibility; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
  - E. Support students' health and wellness by developing an appreciation for education and recreation in the outdoors; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
  - F. Encourage hands-on engagement, observation, discovery, intellectual curiosity and problem-solving; and [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
  - G. Support students and teachers to combat the learning loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Program structure.** An outdoor education program provider shall:

- A. Comply with the requirements of chapter 927 regarding licensed guides, youth camp trip leaders or educational trip leaders, as appropriate. [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Provide outdoor programs for a 2-night, 3-day experience or day programs when overnight programs are impractical due to health or cultural considerations; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Pursue a sustainable funding model; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Collaborate with schools and teachers to provide access to the program; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- E. Pledge to provide equitable access to the program to all students; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- F. Train educators in educational strategies and field work; [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]
- G. Develop and participate in an evaluation program in accordance with section 5305; and [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]

H. Promote high levels of accessibility for students with disabilities. [PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]  
[PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 84, §1 (NEW).

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