

**DRAFT**

**Resolution Concerning Environmental Education**

- Whereas, environmental education is a life-long learning process that increases awareness about the environment and its systems while developing critical-thinking skills that enable responsible decision-making,
- Whereas, failure to prepare Colorado’s youth with the needed scientific knowledge, understanding, and critical evaluation and decision making skills could result in a citizenry unprepared to meet their future responsibilities regarding the environment in Colorado,
- Whereas, a study by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) revealed that there are alarming gaps in public understanding of basic environmental concept, such as that 45 million Americans think the ocean is a source of fresh water,
- Whereas, environmental education can foster a connection to the community and civic responsibility by developing environmental literacy,
- Whereas, the environment offers a relevant context for the learning and integration of core content knowledge,

Therefore, be it resolved that, the State Board of Education recognizes the importance of environmental education and:

Affirms the important role of environmental education in preparing the next generation for stewardship of Earth,

Encourages local boards of education to include environmental education in their curriculum,

Calls on local boards of education to take responsibility for including environmental education outcome measures in their accountability process,

Appreciates the education professionals involved with innovative and effective instruction relating to environmental education.