

Pennsylvania

Science Matters eBlast

August 8, 2017



This issue of the Science Matters eBlast is filled with Pre-K through high school opportunities and resources for both teachers and students. Please share the eBlast with your colleagues. All eBlasts are archived in the Content Repository of the SAS [Science Learning Community](#).

Science Education in the News

PDE has released a draft of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and it is available on the [PDE website](#). Comments, questions, and suggestions are being accepted until August 31. The [online survey](#) can be accessed from [PDE's ESSA website](#). It is important to note that science teachers were not included in the development of the plan, and this is your opportunity to have your voice heard. All teachers of science, birth to PreK to grade 12+ are encouraged to read the plan and look for implications for your role as a science teacher. Review the section on STEM (begins on page 70) and look for implications for classroom teachers of science. Hands-on science is identified as having disparities within high poverty areas compared with wealthier districts and look to see how the plan addresses this research. PDE is actively involved with DCNR, DEP, CBP, CBF, along with other organizations to promote environmental education through the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. If you are part of promoting environmental education, review the plan for how Pennsylvania will be addressing EE and meaningful watershed experiences for students. Your review and input is critical for the final document. Make sure you complete the [online survey](#) prior to August 31.

An Educator's Guide to the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWMEE) is now available in a [pdf file](#). It is an easy to use [manual](#) for constructing high quality educational experiences for all students. It was developed in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Program, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, NOAA, the Chesapeake Research Consortium, and the six states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed region. It is also included in the Content Repository of the [Science Learning Community](#).

Have you planned for the solar eclipse on August 21? Fourteen states are in the path of totality and will be able to experience a total solar eclipse. In Pennsylvania, observers expect to see roughly 70% - 80% totality for the 2017 Solar Eclipse. The eclipse will begin at approximately 1:00pm and end around 4:00pm. Check the [timeanddate website](#) for details in your area: [Erie](#), [Pittsburgh](#), [State College](#), [Scranton](#), [Philadelphia](#), or do a search for your area. NASA has resources available for classrooms on the [eclipse website](#), which include the [Eclipse Kit](#).

Professional Opportunities

Weathering the Storm, a workshop from DEP, will focus on *Wet in the City* and *Rain to Drain*. Participants will receive both sets of curriculum at the end of the workshop. It will be held on September 9, at the Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peter's Mountain Road Dauphin, PA. Contact Bert Myers for information and registration: gimyers@pa.gov or 717-705-3767

Montgomery County IU has scheduled Brett Moulding for [a three day PD session](#) in October and December for K-5 teachers of science, coaches, and administrators. Join in [a three-day professional learning opportunity](#) focused on developing meaningful understanding of the new vision for science teaching and learning presented in the NRC report A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas. [A one day A Vision and Plan for science teaching and learning](#) for teachers will focus on developing deeper understanding of how to use the instructional model “Gather, Reason, and Communicate (GRC)” and provide GRC and 5E GRC lessons to use in the classroom.

The State Library of Pennsylvania is holding the following professional development opportunities in their Makerspace. Act 48 credit is available. Questions or to register: ellshenk@pa.gov (717)783-5969

Date	Topic	Times
August 14	CASEF Summer Workshop Physical Science - \$20	9-3
August 15	CASEF Summer Workshop Life Science - \$20	9-3
September 8	Microbiology Professional Development	10-3

PA State Parks continue to [offer innovative, multi-modal educator workshops](#) across the state (make sure you click the arrows to view what is happening each month!) New sessions for after the first of the year have recently been added. Participants will receive Act 48 credit.

Date	Description	Location	Information
August 11	PA Songbirds Educator Workshop	Frances Slocum State Park	570-696-9105; RA-nrspfrsleep@pa.gov
August 25	Watershed Education Teacher Workshop	Caledonia State Park	calongo@pa.gov ; 717-772-1807; \$30
Sept 16	Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop	Raccoon Creek State Park, Hookstown, PA	\$20. Shane Miller: shanemille@pa.gov

Conferences, PD Opportunities Calendar

PD Opportunity	Date	Location	Information/Register
PAESTA Fall Conference	October 14	Indiana University PA	Website
PSTA	Nov 30-Dec 1	State College	Website

Grants, Awards, Contests, Professional Opportunities

Award/Opportunity	Deadline	Information
PSSA / Keystone Exam Committee	Apply now for 2018	Information and Application

Science Matters Information

If someone sent you this eBlast, you can become a member of Science Matters to receive it directly! Go to [PSTA's Science Matters website](#).

Science Matters is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association and the National Science Teachers Association to promote quality science education, through the sharing of information, resources, and professional development opportunities. The Pennsylvania state coordinator is Dave Bauman: davbauman@pa.gov.