



Everglades Champion Schools

Recognition Program

2018-2019

Evaluation Criteria

- I. Professional Development
- II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum
- III. Inquiry- and Project-based Learning
- IV. Everglades Leadership
- V. Innovation



I. Professional Development (Possible 26 Points)

Indicator	2 points	6 points	10 points	14 points
<p>A. Everglades Literacy Workshops (Possible 14 Points) The aim of the Everglades Foundation’s Everglades Literacy Project is to insure that all Florida students understand the importance of the Everglades. Providing quality professional development for teachers is a critical step in educating future generations of Everglades Literate citizens. <i>Your school <u>must</u> achieve at least two points of this indicator.</i></p>	At least one (1) teacher in the school has attended an Everglades Literacy Workshop <u>and</u> shared the information with teachers at the school.	At least three (3) teachers in the school have attended an Everglades Literacy Workshop <u>and</u> shared the information with teachers at the school.	At least five teachers (5) from multiple grade levels in the school have attended an Everglades Literacy Workshop <u>and</u> shared the information with other teachers at the school.	The school hosts a whole-school Everglades Literacy Workshop with more than one teacher in each grade level attends and shares the information with other teachers at his/her grade level. Schools need to host this whole-school training every three years.
Indicator	1-4 points		1-8 bonus points	
<p>B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules (Possible 12 Points) The goal of the online modules is to increase teachers’ content knowledge of the Everglades so that they have a better understanding of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem and feel better prepared to implement the Everglades lessons with their students. To obtain information about these modules, please send an email to evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org.</p>	Up to 4 teachers (1 point per teacher) complete Module 1 of the Everglades Content Knowledge Online Modules and shares one or more interesting facts or concepts that they learned in the modules with their colleagues and/or the school community.		Bonus points are awarded to teachers who complete additional Modules 2-4. Multiple teachers can complete any combination of these modules. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 teachers each complete Modules 2-4 – 2 teachers x 3 modules =6 pts 	



II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum (Possible 40 Points)

Indicator	5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	25 points
<p>A. Everglades Literacy Toolkit Implementation (Possible 25 Points) The Teacher Toolkit offers three lessons for each grade level, K-12. These lessons introduce students to the Fundamental Concepts of Everglades Literacy as described in the Everglades Literacy Conceptual Framework.</p> <p><i>Your school <u>must</u> achieve at least 5 points of this indicator.</i></p>	20% of the students in your school have participated in the set of lessons in the Everglades Literacy Toolkit for their grade and teachers provided feedback for the lessons implemented.	40% of the students in your school have participated in the set of lessons in the Everglades Literacy Toolkit for their grade and teachers provided feedback for the lessons implemented.	60% of the students in your school have participated in the set of lessons in the Everglades Literacy Toolkit for their grade and teachers provided feedback for the lessons implemented.	80% of the students in your school have participated in the set of lessons in the Everglades Literacy Toolkit for their grade and teachers provided feedback for the lessons implemented.	>95% of the students in your school have participated in the set of lessons in the Everglades Literacy Toolkit for their grade and teachers provided feedback for the lessons implemented.
Indicator	1- 10 points		1-5 bonus points		
<p>B. Additional Everglades Lesson Implementation (Possible 15 Points) – The Everglades Foundation wants to reward your efforts for implementing additional Everglades lessons that go above and beyond our <i>Everglades Literacy Toolkit</i> for your grade level.</p>	Schools can document that an additional 1-10 lessons were implemented in the schools in at least one class <i>and</i> links or pdf's of the lessons are provided (1 point per lesson)		Bonus points will be awarded based on the number of grade levels reached by the additional lessons. (1 point for two grade levels reached, 2 points for three grade levels reached, etc.		
	<p><i>Examples:</i> Lessons from the Toolkit adapted from other grade levels, Everglades-focused lessons developed by our place-based partners, and Everglades-focused lessons that you have developed.</p>				



III. Inquiry- and Project-based Learning (Possible 16 Points)

Indicator	2 points	4 points	6 points	8 points
A. Field Studies (Possible 8 Points) Students learn about the Everglades through guided inquiry-based activities in natural areas or local environments. Their research should demonstrate their understanding of the Everglades Literacy Fundamental Concepts.	20% of the students in your school have participated in an inquiry-based Everglades-focused field study.	40% of the students in your school have participated in an inquiry-based Everglades-focused field study.	60% of the students in your school have participated in an inquiry-based Everglades-focused field study.	80% or more of the students in your school have participated in an inquiry-based Everglades-focused field study.
	<i>Examples: Conduct butterfly or bird surveys; Investigate the water quality at a local wetland. Note: The online Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit contains a water quality field studies lesson for grades 4-6. A listing of suggested field study sites in South Florida can be obtained by emailing evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org.</i>			
Indicator	2 points	4 points	6 points	8 points
B. Interdisciplinary project-based learning (Possible 8 Points) Students will apply their science knowledge to other disciplines. Their projects should demonstrate their understanding of the Everglades Literacy Fundamental Concepts. *Note: Everglades initiatives can merge with “green” initiatives but not all “green” initiatives apply to the Everglades.	20% of the students in your school have implemented an interdisciplinary Everglades-focused project.	40% of the students in your school have implemented an interdisciplinary Everglades-focused project and the final project reaches all grade levels.	60% of the students in your school have implemented an interdisciplinary Everglades-focused project and the final project reaches parents and community.	80% or more of the students in your school have implemented an interdisciplinary Everglades-focused project and the final project reaches students, parents and community.
	<i>Examples: Research, plan and create a native garden to provide habitat for wildlife; Visual and Performing Arts (Plays, murals, photography); Media productions and Communication (School TV, school writing project: book of poetry, etc). Students can present their projects in a variety of ways: to each other at their grade level; via the morning announcements or a school assembly; at a PTA meeting or Parent Night event.</i>			

Definitions for purposes of this evaluation criteria:

- Inquiry-based field activities** ask students to answer an initial question by evaluating evidence they collect through a direct experience of the physical environment. Inquiry-based activities foster critical and scientific thinking by encouraging students to develop possible explanations of their evidence, assess its value, and think about its meaning in the context of their wider learning and experience. While teachers may provide initial questions and procedures, they primarily serve as facilitators and guides in this student-centered process.
- Interdisciplinary project-based learning** asks students to identify and address a complex, real-world problem or issue through an extended project. Projects require student(s) to develop and integrate knowledge and skills from multiple disciplines as they research, design, develop, revise, and share their projects with the wider community.



IV. Everglades Leadership (Possible 26 Points)

Indicator	2 points	4 points	6 points	8 points
A. Everglades Ambassadors Student Organization (Possible 8 points) This student organization can be new or an existing organization that has incorporated Everglades Literacy into their mission.	School can demonstrate integration of Everglades activities into a new or existing school club(s). <i>Examples: Flyer/email discussing new club, agenda at club meeting.</i>	Students in the club serve as ambassadors to teach other students about the Everglades. <i>Example: Students in the club read to students in other grades.</i>	Students in the club lead a school-wide project to promote Everglades Literacy. <i>Example: Everglades-focused skits on the morning announcements.</i>	Students in the club plan and coordinate a community event that promotes Everglades Literacy. <i>Examples: Organizes walk-a-thon, Festival, school-wide celebration of Everglades Day, etc.</i>
Indicator	2 points	4 points	6 points	8 points
B. Community Partnerships (Possible 8 points) School works with the community at large to stress the importance of Everglades Literacy. Schools are maximizing and building their capacity for Everglades Literacy within the community. <i>Partners are businesses or organizations that provide services and/or resources to the school.</i>	Community involvement related to Everglades is limited to parents. <i>Example: Newsletters sent home from school.</i>	School demonstrates that they are seeking community partnerships to promote Everglades Literacy Projects. <i>Examples: List of potential partners contacted, letters to potential partners.</i>	School demonstrates at least one partnership within the local community <u>and</u> continues to seek additional community local support for Everglades Literacy Projects. <i>Example: Partnership with county (ERM) to host field trips in county natural areas.</i>	School can demonstrate multiple on-going partnerships within the local community <u>and</u> continue to seek additional community local support for Everglades Literacy Projects.
Indicator	2 points	4 points	6 points	10 points
C. Administrative Support and School Philosophy and Culture (Possible 10 points) Everglades Literacy Projects and Practices are part of how staff and administration think about their school. An Everglades Champion School team is established to lead these efforts.	An Everglades Champion School team including at least two teachers (2) <u>and</u> one (1) administrator has been created within the school and meets periodically to discuss Everglades Literacy efforts.	The Everglades Champion School team including at least two (2) teachers and one (1) administrator encourages teachers to attend Everglades Literacy Workshops and incorporate the Everglades Literacy Toolkit into the curriculum.	The Everglades Champion School team including at least four (4) teachers from multiple grade levels/disciplines and one (1) administrator encourages school-wide incorporation of the Everglades Literacy Toolkit into the curriculum as well as supporting other Everglades-focused initiatives.	The Everglades Champion School team including at least one teacher from each grade level and one administrator works to insure that Everglades Literacy is a part of the school's mission and culture. School mission or philosophy statement clearly articulates or embodies the importance of Everglades Literacy. School website displays Everglades school culture.
<i>Examples: Letters or emails from school administration to teachers, screenshots of website or sections of newsletters that discuss their support of these topics.</i>				



V. Innovations (Possible 4 BONUS Points)

Innovation awards up to four bonus points for initiatives that go “above and beyond” the scope of the other categories, or do not fit in neatly elsewhere. This is your chance to be creative! Examples of innovative projects are:

- Teachers sharing knowledge gained in the Everglades Content Knowledge Online Training in creative ways.
- Fundraising initiatives to support Everglades-focused field trips and/or projects
- Creating an Everglades Literacy school-wide Challenge
- Encouraging Everglades-focused research for Science Fair
- Student presentations at public events. E.g. Everglades Day; Broward County for Water Matters Day; District Science Fair
- Starting an Everglades book club (for students, teachers and/or parents)
- Participating in a county, state or national green schools program.