

AP 2111: Outdoor/Environmental Education

Background:

Outdoor/environmental education opportunities assist in developing students' physical health, outdoor skills, and leadership qualities, while promoting cultural safety and respect for diversity. SD8 supports schools in their delivery of outdoor/environmental education which is offered in order to encourage an appreciation of nature, promote outdoor activities, encourage an understanding of environmental conservation and climate action in alignment with locally developed courses and Ministry of Education and Child Care curricular objectives.

Procedures:

1. Students' health and safety is primary in the delivery of outdoor education. Staff who provide outdoor or environmental education for students must have appropriate training in first aid and risk management and be present during all activities to uphold safety and health standards.
2. Outdoor/environmental education field trips must comply with AP 2300 Student Field Trips.
3. [Youth Safe Outdoors](#) must be referenced by educators in charge of outdoor or environmental education.
4. Students participating in outdoor/environmental education experiences will comply with school rules, the school code of conduct, AP 3000 Code of Conduct, and any special directions required to maintain proper structure and safety pertaining to the activity as determined by the principal, supervising teacher/leader, or accompanying instructor or leader.
5. Outdoor/environmental education will promote cultural safety, accessibility, and respect for human rights and diversity, while encouraging students to appreciate the contributions of diverse backgrounds and abilities to the outdoor education experience.
6. Application and Selection Process:
 - 6.1. Outdoor/environmental education programs that have an application and selection process are required to apply the AP Appendix 2111: Outdoor Education Academy Process and Selection Assessment Rubric. When there are more students who have applied than spots available, the SD8 Selection Committee, comprised of the Director of Instruction - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment or their designate, principal, and teacher, will assess each applicant to determine suitability and eligibility for the program.
 - 6.2. Applicants will be notified of their application status by either May 15th (ATLAS) or June 15th (Valhalla Wilderness Program) each year. Selected students must confirm their acceptance and comply with any subsequent requirements, such as program fees and preparation for participation.
 - 6.3. Applicants may be invited for an interview as part of the selection process, during which interviews will be structured to avoid bias by posing the same questions to all candidates.

The assessment of these interviews will take into consideration the applicant's awareness of bias, understanding of group dynamics, self-awareness, and overall suitability for the program.