



K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Program

2021 – 2022 Evaluation Criteria

- I. Professional Development
- II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum
- III. Everglades Community & Culture
- IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond

For any questions, contact the Champions Program Manager at evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org.

Website: www.evergladesliteracy.org

K-5 Everglades Champion Schools Program

2021-2022 Evaluation Criteria Overview

The evaluation criteria are based on a point system where the maximum number of points for all four categories is 130 points. A Champion School's ultimate goal should be school-wide involvement including student-led initiatives. The number of points that schools earn on their applications determines their recognition levels: Bronze (40-70 points), Silver (71-101 points), or Gold (102-130 points). *Proper documentation is required to earn points.*

Category	Possible Points	Indicators		
I. Professional Development	45 *	A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (25 points) + (5 pts bonus*)	B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules (12 points)	C. Additional Everglades Trainings (8 points)
II. Integrating Everglades Literacy Curriculum	45**	A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (25 points)	B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach (10 points) + (5 pts. bonus**)	C. Field Experiences (10 points)
III. Community & Culture	30	A. Everglades Student Ambassadors (10 points)	B. Community Partnerships (10 points)	C. School Culture & Administrative Support (10 points)
IV. Everglades Extensions	10	Judges may award up to 10 points for Everglades initiatives that have gone above & beyond the scope of the other categories, or for initiatives that do not fit in neatly elsewhere.		
Total	130	(+10 If bonus points are awarded)		

I. Professional Development (45 points max.)

Documentation Required for all indicators (A., B., & C.)

I. A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings (25 points max.) **See Program Requirement*

Teachers, staff, and administration use professional development provided by The Everglades Foundation to build a school’s Everglades literacy capacity to ensure that all Florida students understand the importance of conserving, protecting, and restoring the Everglades.

****Program Requirement: Two teachers must have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training in the last three (3) years to be eligible to participate in the Everglades Champion Schools Program.***

5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	25 points
At least <u>15% of your teachers</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>30% of your teachers</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>45% of your teachers from multiple grade levels</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>60% of your teachers from multiple grade levels</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.	At least <u>85% of your teachers from multiple grade levels</u> have attended an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last three years.
Bonus Points (Up to 5 points)				
<p>Bonus points will be awarded if a school is a host training site for an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training. Host schools are highly encouraged to invite other schools to attend.</p>				

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of training agendas, sign-in sheets, confirmation emails of participation, images that capture teacher participation, or spreadsheets of training records.

I. Professional Development (continued)

I. B. Everglades Content Knowledge Modules (12 points max.)

The modules are independent, self-paced online professional development opportunities that will increase teachers' content knowledge about various topics of the Everglades.

Access all modules from the Everglades Literacy website: <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/content-modules>

Use Password: *contentmodules*

1-12 points	Modules offered (topics subject to change)
<p>Up to 12 teachers complete any of The Everglades Foundation's online Everglades Content Knowledge Modules available with a passing score of 60/80 (75%).</p> <p>Note: <i>Modules are only valid for the year they are completed. Modules that have been completed by teachers in previous years will not be counted again for subsequent years. To check teacher eligibility, email requests to evergladeschampion@evergladesfoundation.org</i></p>	<p>Module 1: Introduction to the Historic Everglades Watershed</p> <p>Module 2: Geology of the Everglades</p> <p>Module 3: Hydrology of the Everglades</p> <p>Module 4: Nutrient Cycling in the Everglades</p> <p>Module 5: The Ecological Communities of the Everglades</p>

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, confirmation emails of participation, images that capture completion with a passing score, or spreadsheets of training records.

I. Professional Development (continued)

I.C. Additional Everglades-Related Trainings (8 points max.)

Any in-person or virtual trainings, webinars, and/or conferences that focus on Everglades education for teachers, staff, and administration.

4 points	8 points
At least two (2) teachers and/or staff members in the school attend at least one additional professional development opportunity that has an Everglades connection.	At least four (4) teachers and/or staff members in the school attend at least one additional professional development opportunity that has an Everglades connection.

Examples:

- Attending other speaker series, webinars, and teacher symposiums that are hosted by The Everglades Foundation (Ex. The Annual Everglades Teacher Symposium, Families ForEverglades Speaker Series, Everglades Restoration Fights Climate Change webinars, and more!)
- Attending Everglades related webinars and/or conference sessions hosted by LEEF (League of Environmental Educators in Florida)
- Attending an Everglades National Park Teacher Workshop

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of training certificates, training agendas, confirmation emails of participation, or images that capture teacher participation.

II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum (50 points max.)

Documentation Required for all Indicators (A., B., & C.)

II. A. Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit Implementation (25 points max.) **See Program Requirement*
The K-12 Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit offers a set of three (3) lessons that are to be implemented in each grade level. These lessons introduce students to the Fundamental Concepts of Everglades Literacy that students, and all Floridians, should understand. Learn more about the concepts on our [website](#).

Access the K-12 Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit at <https://www.evergladesliteracy.org/teacher-tool-kit>

***Program Requirement: Schools must reach a 5-point minimum to be eligible for the ECS Program.**

*5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	25 points
At least 20% of the students in your school have participated in the <u>complete set of the three grade-specific lessons</u> from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 40% of the students in your school have participated in the <u>complete set of the three grade-specific lessons</u> from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 60% of the students in your school have participated in the <u>complete set of the three grade-specific lessons</u> from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 80% of the students in your school have participated in the <u>complete set of the three grade-specific lessons</u> from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.	At least 95% of the students in your school have participated in the <u>complete set of the three grade-specific lessons</u> from the Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit.

Note: Teachers who are not Everglades Literacy trained may still implement Everglades Literacy Teacher Toolkit lessons.

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images of virtual teaching of identified lesson(s), screenshots of teacher lesson plan book, or images that capture student engagement.

II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum

II. B. Everglades Interdisciplinary Approach (10 points max.)

*Schools integrate Everglades themed interdisciplinary lessons **beyond the grade-specific Teacher Toolkit** and/or Everglades projects that are implemented across two or more disciplines. Note: Any EL Teacher Toolkit lessons that are adapted from another grade level AND are interdisciplinary may be applied here.*

4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points
At least 20% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.	At least 40% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.	At least 60% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.	At least 80% of the students have conducted at least one (1) Everglades themed interdisciplinary lesson or project.
1-5 Bonus Points			
Bonus points will be awarded based on the <u>complexity and depth of the project</u> . Judges will be looking for projects that apply interdisciplinary problem – based learning that has students identify, research, design, and develop ways to address complex, real-world problems, or issues through an extended Everglades project.			

Example of Interdisciplinary Project:

- As a Teacher Toolkit lesson extension to **Grade 2 – Lesson 2, Everglades Seasons**, students design and build their own alligator hole that can be a true-to-size alligator hole with props, a smaller version using paper mache, and/or through a digital platform. Students measure components of the alligator hole (i.e. length of an alligator, distance between objects).
 - Disciplines used: Science, Art, Math, Technology
- Other ideas may include STEM lessons, teacher created project-based learning activities, etc.

Visit our website to see [additional instructional resources](#).

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images that capture teacher instruction or student engagement, or screenshots of teacher lesson plan(s).

II. Integrating Everglades Literacy into the Curriculum

II. C. Field Experiences (10 points max.)

Students learn about their local natural environments through guided first-hand observations and/or investigation that allows students to collect data. All experiences must have an Everglades connection.

4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points
At least 20% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.	At least 40% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.	At least 60% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.	At least 80% of the students have participated in one (1) guided first-hand experience and collected data in a local natural environment that has an Everglades connection.
If schools are <u>not permitted</u> to provide a direct interaction with their local environment, virtual Everglades based field observations and/or investigations that collect data are applicable.			

Note: Field experiences are outdoor experiences (in the “field”). Schools are encouraged to visit local nature centers, natural areas, State & County parks, etc. that have an Everglades connection. Field experiences may also occur on or near campus.

Examples of Field Experiences:

- Conduct and compare data from [water quality testing](#) at different locations.
- Pair an [Interactive 360-degree habitat video](#) with a field guide and the provided [student field datasheet](#) to conduct a virtual field experience. *Additional virtual field studies are available on our website.*
- Students conduct bird counts or other plant/wildlife surveys on or off school grounds and then classify if the species are native or non-native species of the Everglades.

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, images of sample student work, images that capture student engagement, screenshots of a field program agenda, or a field trip letter of site confirmation.

III. Everglades Community & Culture (30 points max.)

Documentation Required for all Indicators (A., B., & C.)

III. A. Everglades Student Ambassadors (10 points max.)

Students serve to educate others about the Everglades and protect the ecosystem through action. Students model and practice successful collaboration, partnership, and leadership skills to advance Everglades-related initiatives.

Download [Everglades Student Ambassadors' Guide](#) and [Everglades Pledge](#) here or from our website.

4 points	6 points	8 points	10 points
<p>Student Ambassadors are established and Everglades activities are integrated into a new or existing student club(s) or organization(s).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge from the <i>EF Student Ambassadors' Guide</i>.</p>	<p>Student Ambassadors teach other students from different classes/grade levels about the Everglades (<u>students teaching students</u>).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge from the <i>EF Student Ambassadors' Guide</i>.</p>	<p>Student Ambassadors lead a school-wide project to promote Everglades-related initiatives (<u>students leading school</u>).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge and use components of the <i>EF Student Ambassadors' Guide</i> to guide meetings and plan initiatives.</p>	<p>Student Ambassadors plan and coordinate with adult decision-makers to implement a community event that promotes Everglades literacy (<u>students leading the greater community</u>).</p> <p>Students sign the Everglades Pledge and implement steps from the <i>Student Ambassadors' Guide</i> in meetings.</p>

Examples:

- **Students teaching students:** 5th graders teaching 2nd graders about an endangered species found in the Everglades through an extended research project/poster presentation.
- **Students leading school:** Student ambassadors organize a school-wide campaign via morning announcements to raise awareness of the [ecosystem services](#) that the Everglades provides to people such as filtering pollutants out of the water.
- **Students leading the greater community:** Student ambassadors plan and coordinate with PTO, a River of Grass community festival to celebrate the birthday of Marjory Stoneman Douglas (April 7th). April 7th is officially designated as Everglades Day.

III. Everglades Community & Culture

III. B. Community Partnerships (10 points max.)

School works with the community at large to teach the importance of Everglades literacy through community and/or service-learning activities/projects that directly benefit the wider community. Partners are businesses or organizations that provide services and/or resources to the school.

2 points	4 points	6 points	10 points
Community involvement consists of 1-2 guest speakers that provide Everglades related education to the students and/or within the school community (e.g., parents/families).	Schools work with one community partner to conduct Everglades community and/or service-learning activities at least once or twice a year.	Schools work with two community partners to conduct Everglades community and/or service-learning activities throughout the year (more than twice).	Schools work with two-three community partners to conduct Everglades community and/or service-learning activities throughout the year on a regular on-going basis (monthly, weekly, etc.).
If necessary, virtual connections with community partners to conduct Everglades related education, and Everglades community and/or service-learning activities are permitted (i.e., virtual guest speakers).			

Definitions and examples of “Environmental Community-Service” and “Environmental Service-Learning”:

- **Environmental community-service:** Environmentally focused projects and activities that engage students in addressing the needs of their community, but do not necessarily include a learning component.
 - *Example: Students collecting trash from a local Everglades habitat.*
- **Environmental service-learning:** Environmentally focused projects that involve students in identifying, researching, and implementing solutions to real needs in their community as part of their Everglades learning and/or curriculum goals.
 - *Example: Students will research local threatened or endangered bird species and work with a local environmental group to build and monitor nest boxes to support their population.*

III. Everglades Community & Culture

III. C. School Culture & Administrative Support (10 points max.)

Everglades literacy projects and practices are systematically included as components of school planning, administrative policy, and overall school community & culture. An Everglades Champion School (ECS) team is established to lead these efforts.

2 points	4 points	6 points	10 points
<p>An Everglades Champion School (ECS) team includes at least two (2) teachers and meets twice a year to discuss Everglades literacy initiatives.</p> <p>The ECS two lead teachers attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School’s efforts to be an Everglades Champion School are shared <u>with an administrator</u>.</p>	<p>The Everglades Champion School (ECS) team includes at least two (2) teachers and one (1) administrator that meet periodically (3-4 times) throughout the year to develop and implement Everglades literacy initiatives.</p> <p>Multiple teachers attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School’s efforts to be an Everglades Champion School are shared <u>within the school body</u>.</p>	<p>The Everglades Champion School (ECS) team includes at least four (4) teachers across multiple grade levels and one (1) administrator that meet on a <u>regular basis (monthly, weekly, etc.)</u> throughout the year to develop and implement Everglades literacy initiatives.</p> <p>Teachers and staff attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School’s efforts to be an Everglades Champion School are shared <u>with families and visitors</u> as well as the school body.</p>	<p>The ECS team represents a diverse <u>whole-school community</u>: teachers, students, administrators, staff, parents, and community reps that meet on a <u>regular basis (monthly, weekly, etc.)</u> to ensure that Everglades literacy is a part of the school’s culture, that may be illustrated by school-wide projects, community events, newsletters, social media posts, school website, and/or in school policies.</p> <p>Faculty, administrator(s) and parents attend an Everglades Literacy Teacher Training within the last 3 years.</p> <p>School’s efforts to be an ECS is shared with <u>other schools and the wider community</u>.</p>

Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to, meeting sign-in sheets, agendas, minutes, emails, screenshots, website links, campus signage, or excerpts from official school planning documents.

IV. Everglades Extensions: Above and Beyond (10 points max.)

Up to ten bonus points are awarded for Everglades-related initiatives that go “above and beyond” the scope of the other categories, or for Everglades initiatives that do not fit in neatly elsewhere. This is your chance to be creative!

Examples:

- Additional Interdisciplinary Projects or Field Experiences that have not been included in Indicators II. B. or C.
- Additional teachers that successfully complete online modules that have not been already included in Indicator I.B.
- PTO members attend Everglades Literacy Teacher Trainings
- Fundraising initiatives to support Everglades-focused field trips and/or projects
- Everglades-focused Science Fair Projects
- Student presentations at public events. E.g., Everglades Day; Broward County for Water Matters Day; District Science Fair; or other county-wide water/environmental initiatives
- Starting an Everglades book club or book share (for students, teachers and/or parents)
- Integrating your Everglades initiatives as part of county, state, or national Green Schools program
- Schools have mentored other participating Everglades Champion Schools
- **AND MORE! THE SKY’S THE LIMIT!**

