

Innovation

Measure 60 – Green School Initiative

5 Points

Discussion:

Environmental education is essential in encouraging the protection and preservation of our environment and natural resources. The Cobb County Green School Initiative is a cooperative effort between Cobb County Water System, Keep Cobb Beautiful, and the Cobb County Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Unit with a two-fold purpose.

The first is to develop and insert environmental science curricula into Cobb County Schools and have it adopted by elementary teachers into their science lesson plans and learning objectives. The goal of the initiative is to foster student learning in such areas as conservation of natural resources, species protection, environmental stewardship, and community beautification.

The second goal is to recognize and acknowledge innovative environmental curriculum in the schools. It is difficult in the current test-centered environment for teachers to justify environmental programming and activities such as school-wide recycling, and comprehensive water conservation programs. The Green Schools Program is designed to both create an incentive to faculty and to act as a resource center.

Eight Cobb County Schools received Green School Designation for the 2007/2008 school year. Mount Bethel, Ford, Keheley, and Sanders Elementary Schools all achieved Green School Gold Status Designation; meaning more than 15 teachers completed 5 environmentally friendly lesson plans. Mountain View Elementary School received Green School Silver Status Designation, with more than 10 teachers attaining Green Classroom Designations. The other Green School recipients were: Frey, Kennesaw, and Nicholson Elementary Schools. The Green Schools represent over 750 hours of environmental education reaching more than 3,300 students.

The 2007/2008 year of the Green School Initiative represents more than 100 staff hours by the Green School Coordinators. This investment is consistent with the Cobb County's participation as Partners at Large with Cobb County Schools.

Documentation:

The following documentation is enclosed with this application:

- Green School Program Outline
- Green School Annual Report for 2007/2008 with program description and accomplishments.