



Kids and Nature – Federal, State and Local Policy Overview

January 18, 2012



What We Are Covering Today...

- The Indoor Childhood Problem
- Federal Policy Framework...
- Federal Bills Drive State Policy
- State Policy Framework

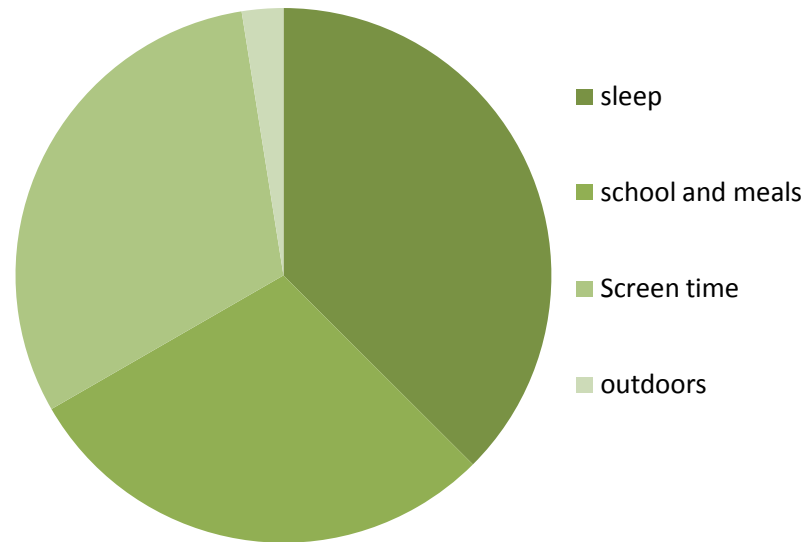


A Reminder

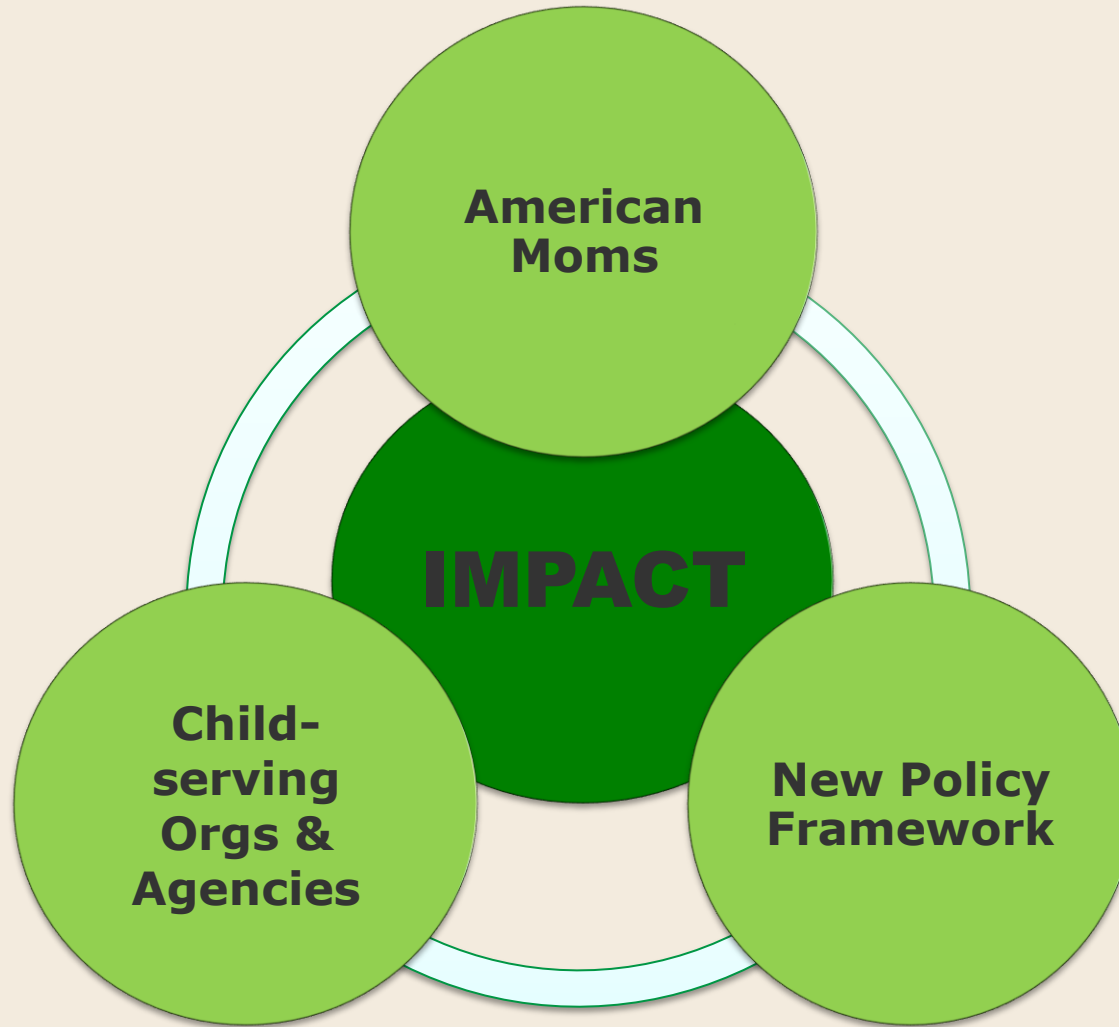


A Reminder

A Day In the Life of An American Child



A New Model



How many kids do we need to reach?

There Are 70 million Total Kids in U.S.



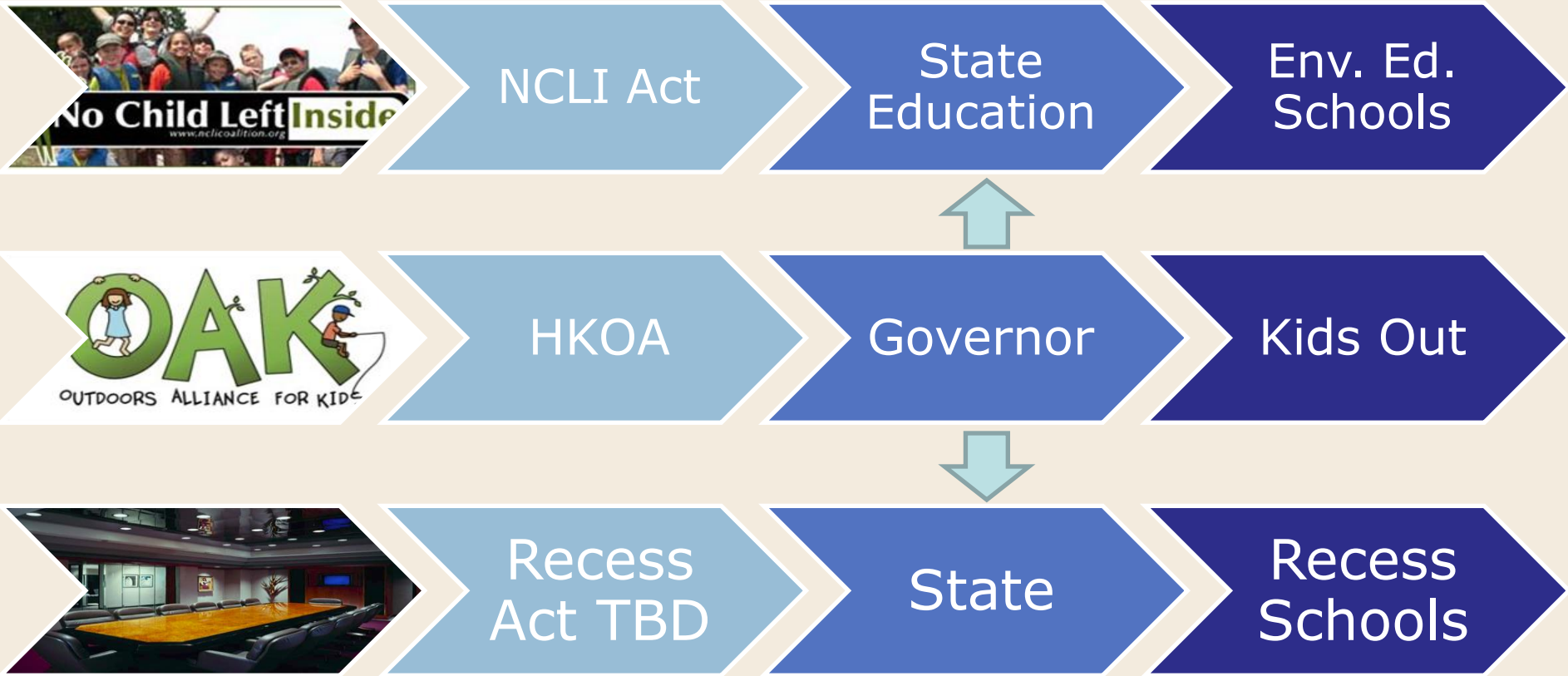
10%
currently
spending
regular
time
outdoors

15%
additional
in 3 years

**10
million
kids!**

(17 mm
total 25%)

Federal Policy Framework



No Child Left Inside Act



NCLI Act

State
Education

Env. Ed.
Schools

- Supports environmental and outdoor education in pre-K through 12 public schools
- Provides incentives for states to create and implement State Environmental Literacy Plans (SELPs)
- Funding will come from the U.S. Department of Education and go to state education agencies



NCLI Act Main Provisions

- Content of SELPs left to states
- Grants for teacher quality & professional development
- Grants for building national capacity of environmental education in state education agencies, local education institutions of higher education or nonprofit orgs for dissemination of proven EE models and studies of national significance.

No Child Left Inside®



THE PROBLEM

Narrowing Curriculum
Nature Deficit Disorder
Childhood Obesity
What NCLB has Done

OUR SOLUTION

What is EE?
Why is EE Important?
About the NCLI Act
EE Research

PROGRESS

In The News
EE in the States
Coalition Members
Cosponsors

TAKE ACTION

About the Coalition
Join the Coalition
Support NCLI
Contact Your
Congressperson
Talking Points
NCLI Days

Bi-Partisan No Child Left Inside Act Introduced

07.14.11 - Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD) introduced the bi-partisan No Child Left Inside Act of 2011 into the 112th Congress. As in the past, many of their Congressional colleagues joined them in co-sponsoring this historic legislation. We are grateful to them for their vision and leadership in working to make environmental education an integral part of every American child's education.

For a complete list of current co-sponsors, [click here](#).

For more information:

- NCLI Coalition press release
- Senator Reed's press release
- Congressman Sarbanes' press release
- The No Child Left Inside Act of 2011: Senate Bill House Bill



Maryland Is First State to Have Green Graduates

[Read the NCLI press release to](#)

Latest News

8.9.11 - *Baltimore Sun*
"B'More Green" blog

8.6.11 - *The Moral Liberal*:
National NCLI Legislation
Introduced

8.1.11 - New Hampshire
Environmental Literacy Plan
Open for Comment

8.1.11 - The 'Ins' and 'Outs'
of NCLI (blog)

7.30.11 - Our Bay: Sarbanes
Touts NCLI

7.18.11 - Should 'green'
Education Be Required to
Graduate from US Schools?

The Coalition has
over 2079 members! We
welcome the newest
members:

- Callied to Nursing (OR)
- Putney Central School (VT)
- Early Years Institute (NY)
- Project Get Outdoors Inc



NCLI: What is a State Environmental Literacy Plan?

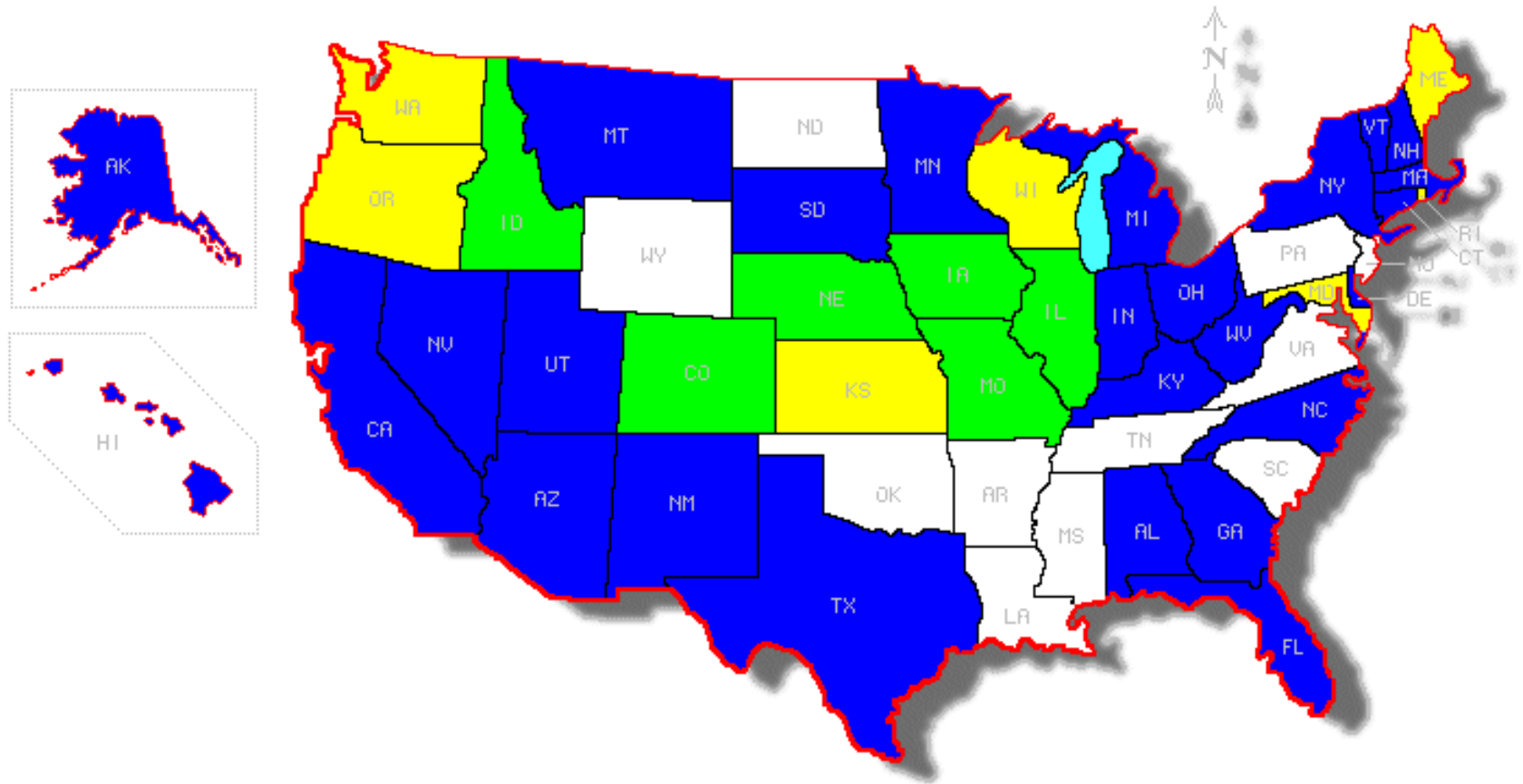
Each state has different environmental needs that may be highlighted, however states must include three things:

1. A description of how the state educational agency will measure the environmental literacy of students
2. A description of programs for professional development for teachers
3. A description of how the state educational agency will implement the plan, including securing funding and other necessary support



- - ELP Initiated
- - ELP Completed
- - ELP Adopted

NCLI State Map



NCLI: MD SELP Case Study

- In June 2011 Maryland became the first state in the nation to require its high school students to be environmentally literate upon graduation
- Maryland State Board of Education now requires that each child receive a multi-disciplinary environmental education that meets the approval of the State Superintendent
- State Districts are not required to create a new course of study but instead integrate environmental content and experiences in existing curricula



Healthy Kids Outdoors Act



HKOA

Governor

Kids Out

- NWF Wrote This Bill
- Rep Ron Kind (WI)
- Sen Mark Udall (CO)
- We Lead The Advocacy
- OAK Supports It



Who Is OAK?



www.outdoorsallianceforkids.org



HKOA – How it Works

DOI

- U.S. Dept of the Interior Solicits Cooperative Agreements from States

State

- A State Applies to either Implement or Create a Kids in Nature Strategy

Local

- Local Programs and Partners Get Subgrants from a State to Get Kids Outside



What's In A HKOA Kids in Nature Plan?

A “description” of how the State Will:

Connect Kids with Nature via Public Health, Education, Parks and Rec, & Other Systems

Partner with Nongovernmental Organizations

Foster State Agency Collaboration

Spend the Money through Local Planning and Implementation Grants*

Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Strategy

Involve the Public in Strategy Development & Implementation

Increase Visitation to Federal Public Lands within the State

Leverage Private Funds



*What Are Local Planning & Implementation Grants?

implementing **outdoor recreation** and youth mentoring programs that provide opportunities to experience the outdoors, be physically active, and teach skills for lifelong participation in outdoor activities, including fishing, hunting, recreational shooting, archery, hiking, camping, outdoor play in natural environments, and wildlife watching

implementing programs that **connect communities** with safe parks, green spaces, and outdoor recreation areas through affordable public transportation and trail systems that encourage walking, biking, and increased physical activity outdoors;

This is How States Can Spend Federal \$

implementing **school-based programs** that use outdoor learning environments, such as wildlife habitats or gardens, and programs that use service learning to restore natural areas and maintain recreational assets;

implementing education programs for parents and caregivers about the health benefits of active time outdoors to **fight obesity** and increase the quality of life for Americans, especially children, youth, and families



CHILDREN AND THE OUTDOORS

State Policy Solutions Guide

By Allen Cooper, National Wildlife Federation



There is growing awareness of the disconnection between children and the natural world and a growing desire to find policy solutions to the problem.

Over the past 20 years the time kids spend outside has fallen by fifty percent, and the time the average child spends plugged into electronic media each day has grown to more than six hours. The rate of obesity among adolescents over the same period has more than tripled. At the same time, we have an increasing body of research pointing to the developmental, health and educational benefits of learning and playing

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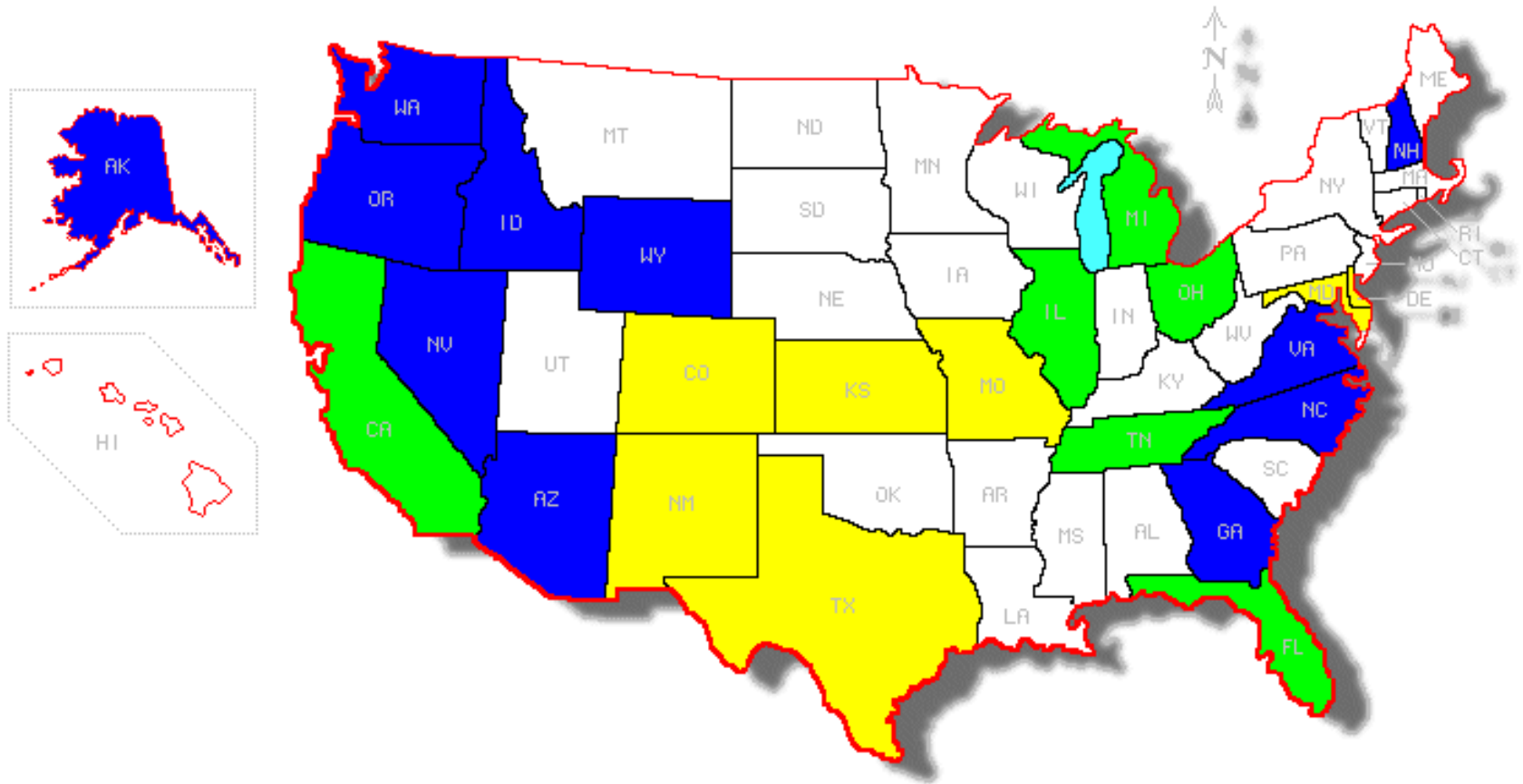
p. 10-15 - Appendix III:

Model State Legislation



- - Statewide Coalition
- - Bill of Rights
- - Statewide Policy

Kids and Nature Policy



State Policy Strategies

- State Kids and Nature Strategic Plan
- Environmental Literacy Plan
- Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Green Schools Programs
- Schoolyard/Playground Greening Campaigns
- Youth Conservation Corps
- Greenways and trails creation



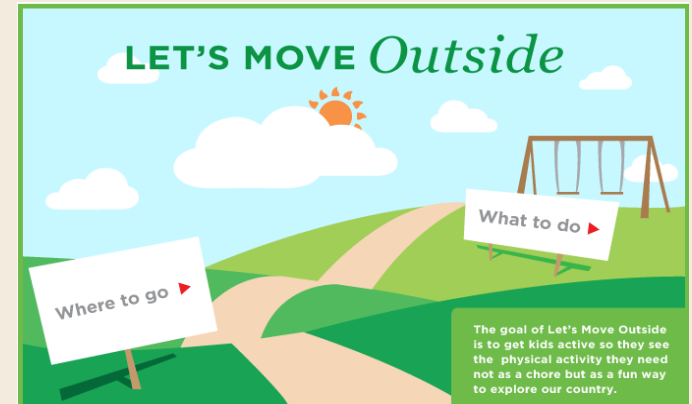
Kansans for Children in Nature Accomplishments



- Endorsed by Governors Sebelius and Brownback
- Environmental Literacy Plan adopted by SBOE
- 340 Green Schools



Other Policy Initiatives In Brief



America's Great Outdoors
Your ideas for protecting the places you love

America's Great Outdoors Print Text Size A A A

Even in times of crisis, we're called to take the long view to preserve our national heritage — because in doing so we fulfill one of the responsibilities that falls to all of us as Americans, and as inhabitants of this same small planet.

-President Barack Obama, April 16, 2010

Submit Your Ideas & Join the Conversation About America's Great Outdoors

Upcoming Listening Sessions (more to come)

- Salt Lake City, Utah: August 3
 - Registration and other information
 - Youth Listening Session Information
- Minneapolis, Minnesota: August 4
 - Registration and other information



NWF Resources – State Guide & Advocacy Toolkit

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Children and the Great Outdoors

Advocacy Toolkit



Make A Difference

Advocacy and playing an active role in the public policy process are not just for experts! You can raise public awareness about the growing trend and implications of the "indoor childhood."

This toolkit will show you how.

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NWF Resources – Monthly Policy Bulletin



BE OUT THERE™
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

Policy Bulletin on Connecting Children with Nature

Sept 2011 - Issue 32

In This Issue

- [The U.S. Green Ribbon Schools Award Gets the Green Light](#)
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- [September 11th: Finding Solace in Nature](#)
- [Call to Action on Colorado High School Graduation Guidelines](#)
- [American Jobs Act Would Green Schools](#)

The U.S. Green Ribbon Schools Award Gets the Green Light

This week the U.S. Department of Education, alongside The President's White House Council on Environmental

We Are At Your Service!



Allen Cooper
CooperA@nwf.org

Danielle Moodie-Mills
MoodieD@nwf.org

Patrick Fitzgerald
FitzgeraldP@nwf.org



Kids in Nature Policy Website Coming Soon

