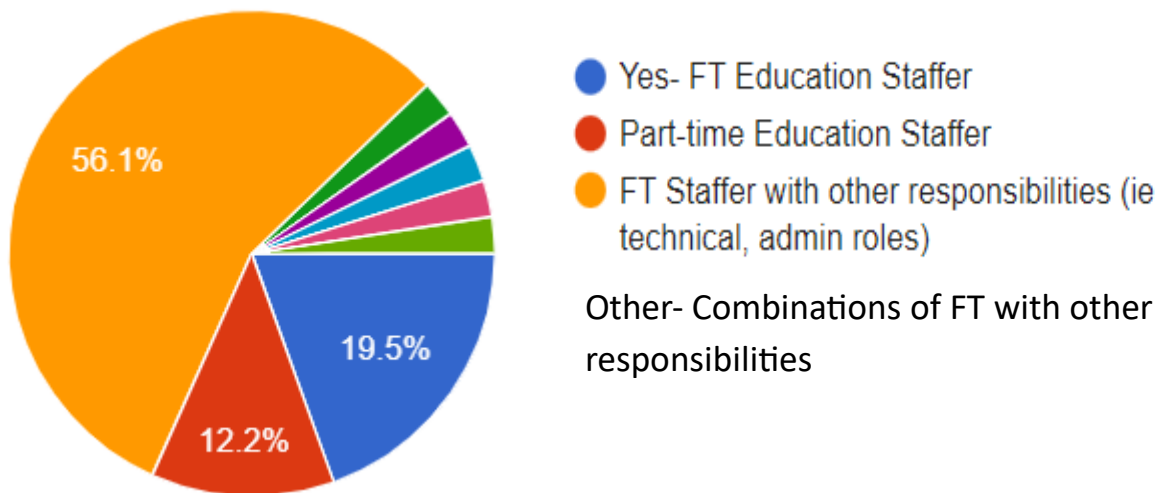


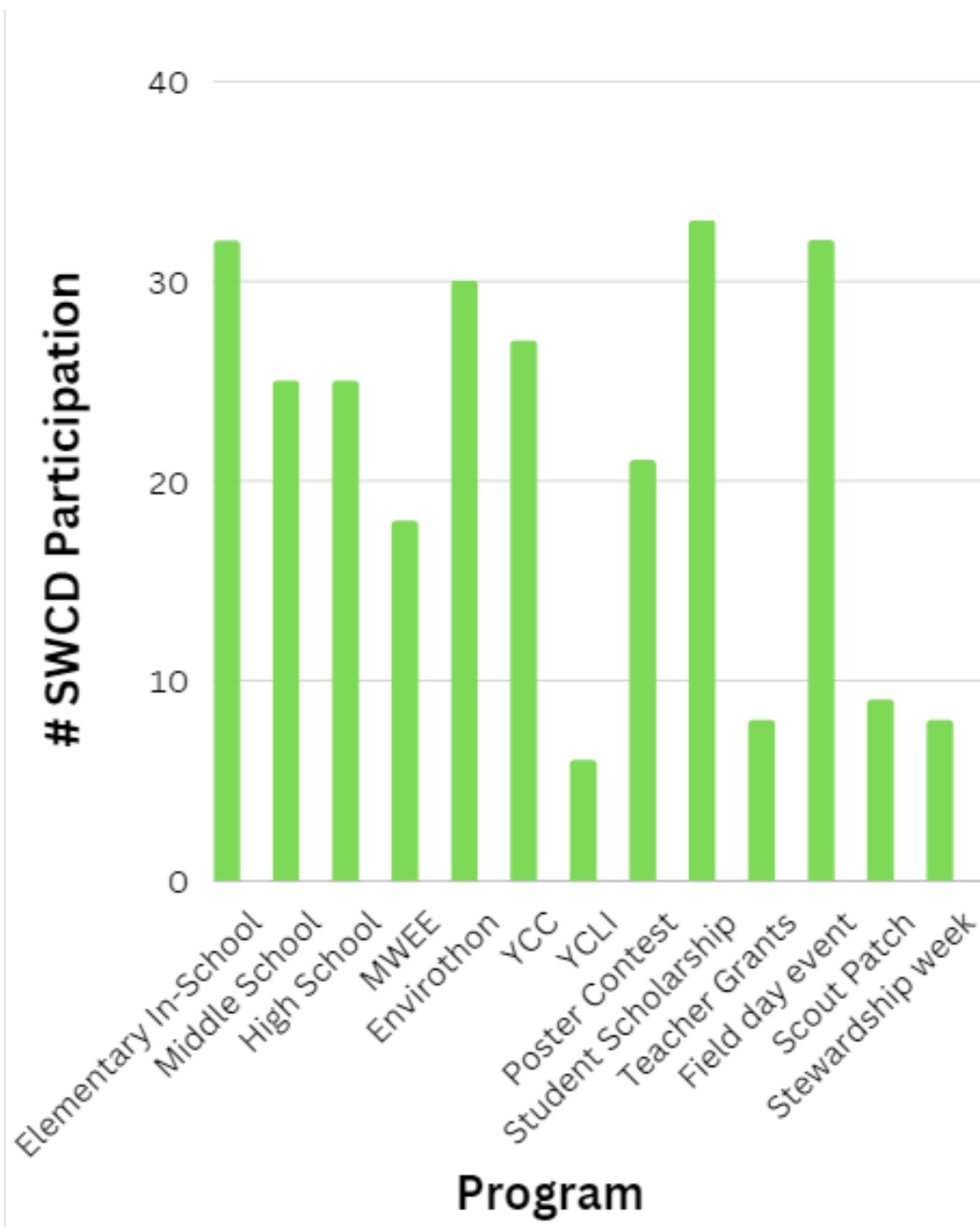
Education Programming Questionnaire – Results, 41 total responses

Does your district have a Full-Time Position dedicated to Education?



Select all of the following education programs that your district has participated in during the last year (2022-2023)

- In-school elementary education programming- **32 (78%)**
- In-school middle school programming- **25- (61%)**
- In-school high school programming- **25- (61%)**
- Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)- **18 - (43.9%)**
- Envirothon (Worked with at least one Team)- **30-(73.2%)**
- Youth Conservation Camp (Sent at least one Camper)- **27- (65.9%)**
- Youth Conservation Leadership Institute- **6 (14.6%)**
- Poster Contest- **21 (51.2%)**
- Student Scholarship- **33 (80.5%)**
- Teacher "mini-grants"- **8 (19.5%)**
- Field Day or similar event- **32 (78%)**
- Scout Patch- **9 (22%)**
- NACD Stewardship Week- **8 (19.5%)**
- Other... (see below)



**“Other” Responses-**

- Summer Camps
- Adult Programming
- Ag Awareness Day/Literacy Week
- Teacher Training
- High School Career
- Fair/Expo
- STEM fairs/ STEAM night
- Camp Woods & Wildlife
- Earth Day Events
- Homeschool Programming
- Rain Barrel & Compost Workshop
- Ag reading in the classroom
- Education Capsules loan to schools

## Which of the above education programs are a priority for your district, and why?

- Many “**All programs are a priority**”
- Many “**Field days/Farm days**”
- Many “**in-school programs**”
- Many “**MWEE's**”- Director priority
- Many “**Envirothon**”
- A few- **Scholarships & Mini Grants**

More detailed answers-

- **In school programming** is a priority because it is the best way to reach a group of children in a controlled environment. I also enjoy working with **homeschool groups** as it is easier to use outdoor spaces. **Envirothon** is a priority because it provides such a unique opportunity for high schoolers and I am personally passionate about the program. We are working on Field Days and MWEEs for the fall.
- **Envirothon** is a top priority as we have a growing competition, reaching multiple students at one time, great connection with curriculum and relationships with high school teachers.
- Our district has hosted **Ag Day** for well over 30 years and has a strong network of volunteers and children that look forward to ag day every year
- field experiences and associated **in--school programs in grades 2, 6, 7, and 8**
- **MWEE is an overarching primary goal**, because in it's best application, it draws in students across all grade levels, teachers across the curriculum, and community members to discover and fill their roles as stewards of their local watershed, so most K-12, community and ag programs have the potential be under the umbrella of Meaningful Watershed Education in some facet.
- **Envirothon** (education and inspiration), **poster contest** (wide outreach), **scholarships** (encourage natural resource careers), **YCC** (inspire and expose), **YCLI** (great experience), **AG awareness days for elementary aged children** and families (great teaching opportunities)
- **Envirothon**-it allows us to work with several HS and MS schools throughout the year, and their coaches (teachers) are excellent contacts for many of the other educational opportunities (i.e. YCC, Poster Contest, Scholarship program, YCLI)
- **In-school programs and "Kids In The Creek" events** are priorities for our district. Getting into the schools and working with the students on a regular basis sets the stage for them to be good stewards of the Earth.
- **The large grade level programs where we can serve all students in one grade level in one week at one location** . It helps with time management, financial cost of traveling all over the county and students learn better with hands on instruction.
- **MWEEs and Envirothon** because they encourage environmental literacy.
- **Envirothon, MWEE, Rain Barrel and Compost Workshops, Garden Project, Scholarship, YCC, Dirt Babies**
- **Middle School Educational programs** to relate to SOL testing.
- **In school programming, YCC, scholarships, and field day**
- **school programming**. My job time availability and thus, priorities have changed in the last year.
- **Envirothon** - We think this is a great competition and opportunity for students. While we have had reduced participation in the past few years we hope to rebuild our local program. **In-school programming/MWEE** - We get a lot of requests for in-classroom assistance and see void that we can help fill for teachers.
- This is a tough question to answer. They all are important. **The in-person programs and field days area probably the most meaningful** for the teachers and students and we put a lot of effort into these.
- **Envirothon** - gets younger students involved in conservation and mindfulness for the future. **Field days** - for education of local farmers and all aged adults.
- **Groundwater Festival**- Middle School and **Envirothon**- High School
- **School Programming/MWEE is our biggest education priority because of local funding obligations** and the large student impact. Envirothon and Scholarships are prioritized as well.

- **MWEE, Capsules, and Farm Field Days.** We do a teacher MWEE training to reach more schools and help with MWEE field days. **Our Capsules** give us the chance to reach more schools with educational programs. Farm Field Days we reach over 900 students over 2 days.
- **In school programs or events such as field trips** have been the most successful for us. We reach more students and are able to build connections with teachers and administrators,
- In-school programming and working with our local 4-H representatives
- **Envirothon** - we want to grow the program to reach every high school and offer more in-person training opportunities; **MWEEs** - we consult on many of these and we look forward to helping implement more, also looking to work on more action projects
- **Envirothon, Poster Contest, and Scholarships.** Envirothon, Long term with kids, and it funnels them into other programs like YCC and Poster Contest. Poster Contest, because it's so accessible. Scholarships, the VASWCD, our 2 YCC and our Donald Bagshaw Scholarship, give back financially and help make conservation again more accessible.

**Are there any of the above education programs that you would like or need additional information on, in order to be able to implement at your SWCD?**

- **MWEE** (many responses) and how other districts do MWEEs, and specifically resources in southern rivers
- **NACD Stewardship Week** (many responses)
- **Field Days**(many responses)
- **Teacher mini-grants** (many responses)
- **Middle School & High School programming.**
- If we were going to implement any more programs, we'd need another education specialist or an intern, but **YCLI** is the main additional program I'd like to manage at our district. It's very one-on-one, so not always a good fit for a district that has to report numbers to a funding municipality, but nonetheless, it's a perfect senior MWEE or ELP capstone for highly motivated students going into environmental or ag careers and would also be the perfect framework for students seeking the Board of Education's Seal for Science and the Environment on their diploma. I see the MWEE framework as an umbrella for all K-12 ELPs and most community programming facilitated by SWCDs. I'd love to work with the VASWCD and DCR to develop collaborative ELPs across Virginia!
- NACD Stewardship Week and more information on MWEE events. We do portions of MWEEs using the Envirothron and water quality testing with schools, sometimes a tree planting, but I would like to have **other resources or events to add in the future to reach more schools.**
- I get questions a lot asking **how to start an Envirothon team.** A start-up training for teachers/coaches would be amazing! Or even just a flyer/video about the steps to starting a team, coach expectations, and basic learning objectives could be cool. I'd be willing to brainstorm and help out!
- Envirothon --having a group to mentor
- **MWEE and poster contest (how to increase interest)**

**What is the most requested education program from the schools or other groups you work with?**

- Envirothron, watershed programs, water quality assessments X15
- Soil Quality lesson and labs X6
- MWEE X5
- We do not really get specific requests
- it varies; no one program or activity
- In-school, hands on science programming. X4

- Mini Grants
- There is not one specific program. Water cycle, Enviroscope and soil tunnel are popular
- Soil tunnel/soil babies X2
- Envirothon (overall), Hands-on Soil lessons and our Underground Classroom mobile education trailer (Elementary level)
- Kids in the Creek X2
- Headstart programs
- Each one listed above has their own demands during specific times of each year
- General natural resources education
- Living In Your Watershed - Grade 4, I Love Soil - Grade 3
- Schools will occasionally reach out to have a conservation tech come to speak on soil health or watershed matters.
- Ag in the Classroom projects
- Capsules, Farm Field Days
- Enviroscope (resource only, no presentation) or presentations on water quality

**If your district is involved with MWEEs, please briefly describe how your event is operated.**

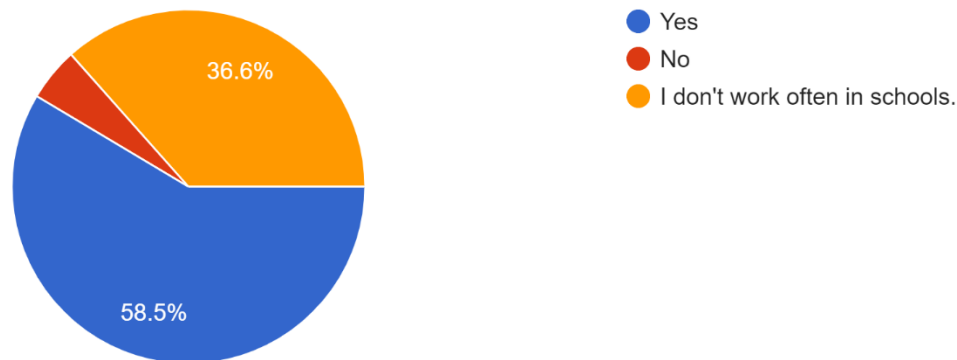
- We are invited to participate in a local MWEE with the local fourth grade students at a local park.
- in class prep followed by one day field experience; usually have at least one in class follow up; action projects have been challenging -- often teachers are ready to "move on;" we're still working to get all teachers on the same page, but we've been limited by our lack of access for teacher training
- We used to do big field days that ended up being a single day event, "one and done," to meet schools' MWEE mandate, but we are shifting since COVID to a more campus-based approach, weaving MWEE concepts and hands-on activities into more grade levels. This year we have reached an entire school district's 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders with hands on MWEE activities related to soil, evaporation, erosion, the water cycle, watershed modeling, non-point source pollution, best management practices, benthic macro-invertebrates as bioindicators of stream health, and chemical water testing. In another district, we will reach high school Earth Science classes with an on-campus field day where they will ID macros and test water quality of two different water bodies, one healthy and one not-so-healthy, then analyze data, draw conclusions, ask questions, and propose action projects to mitigate environmental problems.
- At the beginning of the school year, we do a canoe trip for middle school students in both counties on a day when school is not in session to explore our local watershed. The Slate River is where water sheds from our Buckingham Schools and we paddle at the confluence of the Slate River and the James River, we do water quality monitoring as part of this field day. We arrange and pay for Envirothon Students and high school science classes to have field trips with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation out of Jordan Point Marina in Hopewell or Newport News or Virginia Beach in the fall as well. (We usually have 3 or 4 of these field trips that we pay for from grant money). In the spring we have a field day for 6th graders at a local state park with a packet to answer investigative questions. Students rotate among macroinvertebrate station, chemical and physical water testing station, erosion and sediment station, erosion/nature hike, and a tree/riparian buffer station. Students compare the current year's data with previous year's data as part of their investigative packet and suggest reasons for changes in data. They write a follow up essay and 10 to 12 essays are selected from each county and their writers are awarded a 3-day, 2-night Chesapeake Bay Watershed Exploration Camp. (We get grant money from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Grant for MWEE's and our camp). As part of the camp we do a field trip with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation out of the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach. Students board a 40-foot boat and explore the Lynnhaven River and Chesapeake Bay, trawl for fish, pull up crab pots, perform water quality tests in Chesapeake Bay, etc. We also canoe in the lower James River, and sometimes do programming with the James River Association at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge. Students get an afternoon at the Atlantic Ocean as part of this watershed exploration camp. Students report to their local school boards about their experiences and raise

awareness about watersheds and the importance of doing our part to keep the water clean upstream. We also do a Headwaters Exploration Camp for middle school students to explore where the Cow Pasture and Jackson Rivers meet to form the James River. This is usually a weekend camp in the fall. (The Headwaters Camp has been cancelled the last two years due to weather and prior to that due to the COVID shut down). Last spring we started back with a Middle James watershed exploration camp with Chesapeake Bay Foundation and James River Association. This spring we are back in full swing and headed to Jamestown/Virginia Beach for the full 3-day, 2-night camp :)

- The students are scheduled to prepare in the classroom, complete the one day event outdoors and then take their experiments inside to chart and journal on.
- We have a pre test, 2 days of in classroom lessons, a field portion and another day in the classroom with data analysis, letters to the editor and a post test.
- The BFMS MWEE at Powder Mill Creek (on school property) is organized by the Western VA Water Authority. Partners include Blue Ridge SWCD, Save Our Streams, Master Naturalists and Ferrum College. A week of indoor instruction for 600 sixth graders is conducted followed by a week of creek investigation with hands-on experience with chemical testing, probe ware testing and macro-invertebrate collection and observation.
- We have been involved in the field portion of MWEEs in many ways. Typically the teachers plan them and we assist with running a station or providing an activity.
- We work with community partners for MWEE field days for Buckingham & Cumberland 6th graders at their local state park. This is followed up by a reflective essay and chance to win a spot for our Watershed Exploration Camps. This year the MWEE for Buckingham was done weekly as part of the middle school's 21st Century after school program with a field day at the end of the series.
- I organize the MWEE throughout the year. I set up the schedule with the teacher and partners, lead classroom visits, organize and lead field experiences, help partners organize action projects and organize reflections.
- Our District has a MWEE involving our 4-day Farm Days. All of our stops are aligned with the SOL's we have extension material sent throughout the year. Students often follow up with their own environmental projects through their individual schools.
- Ours is not a full MWEE, but rather a field day comprised of a stream study, nature hike, an enviroscape lesson, and sometimes a Project WET or Wild game. We serve all 4th grade classes in Albemarle and Cville, having them come out to Camp Albemarle and then rotate through each station. They then picnic on the grounds before heading back to school. These events are typically about 4 hours in length and require lots of help from Master Naturalists, volunteers, and staff.
- We do a teacher MWEE training to reach more schools and help with MWEE field days. We also loan out our EnviroScape Watershed Models, we have 4 to teachers implementing MWEEs in their classroom.
- consulting on MWEE development with Fairfax County Parks, participating in MWEEs as water quality and soil health station experts

If your district does frequent in-person classroom lessons, would you be willing to share your lesson plans to be used in an updated Education Binder that be shared with SWCDs?

41 responses



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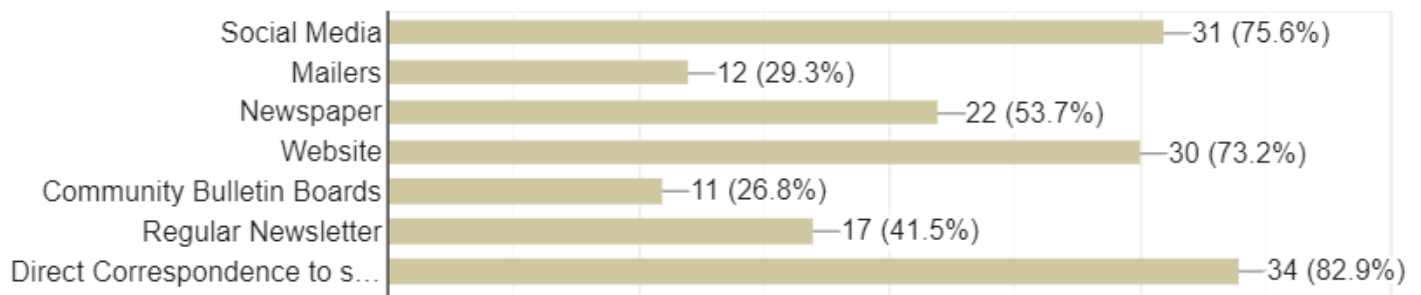
**What community programs, events or workshops does your district host? (ie adult education or family events)**

- We participate in Earth Day celebration, offer programming to Master Naturalists, and often represent ourselves at community events. I am a trained Project WILD facilitator, and hope to host a teacher's workshop.
- Harvest festival (strasburg community garden), Fish Fry Float for Fathers Day (Strasburg VA), Backyard Conservation info sessions, Field days
- We offer a cost share breakfast for the farmers in early July every year.
- We currently have only hosted the Informational Meeting for adults
- rain barrel workshops
- "Water-Wise Home" make-and-take workshops for rain barrels, vermicomposting bins, and pet waster digesters.
- 2. Enviroscape 3.
- We participate in a number of community programs.
- Producer Conference, Awards Banquet for recipients and their families
- workshops (vermiculture bin building, watershed education, poster design)
- We assisted with the Eastern VA Forage Conference for farmers
- We participate in Cumberland's Patriot Day and Buckingham's Mayfest with an educational booth and hands-on activity. We provide septic workshops in conjunction with Cooperative Extension's water testing program. We provide activities for family engagement nights at our local schools. We participate in community career fairs. We provide activities for the community at the Buckingham Cattlemen's Association annual picnic. We provide programs for 4-H summer camps.
- Arbor Day poster/photo contest alongside Forestry, Tree Plantings with the community (grant funded), one farm outreach event annually, rain barrel workshop
- We offer our Underground Classroom mobile education trailer, Project WILD workshops, Woods In Your Backyard workshop (partner w/Virginia Coop Extension)
- Natural Resource Festival, Fix-It Fair
- Livestock Mineral Feeder Workshops for farmers, Rain Barrel workshops and Project Workshops
- New landowner workshop, Program update workshop, Envirothon workshop and teacher PD

- Adult Outreach Events with VCE
- Farm Days
- Kids in the Creek, Seed Day
- Adult farmer education
- Rain Barrel and Compost Workshops, Farm Tour, and Small Farm Spring Forum
- Rain Barrel and Composting Workshops, Fair and Festival displays,
- We participate at the local Earth Day event, we hold an ag series in partnership with NRCS and VCE
- none on a regular basis
- We host Rain Barrel Workshops. As requested we participate in other community outreach events and workshops.
- We participate in county and extension events. Host none of our own.
- Annual dinner meetings, septic workshops, set up booths at Fall Fest, May Fest, Patriot's Day, career days, Open House
- Conservation Field days.
- Community Garden Project, Kids in the Mountain- Conservation Challenge Family Archery Shoot, and an Agricultural Community Outreach Event.
- We don't at this time.
- We attend Community events in our Watershed as time allows. This includes Steam/STEM nights at schools, Earth Day events, and other Festival and events.
- n/a
- Workshops with Master Naturalist/Gardener when requested. We don't host much for the community, but would be interested in learning what others do. We participate in other outreach with state parks and local organizations when contacted about tabling or presenting.
- I am working on getting a FrogWatch USA chapter started up for our district! I had hoped to get that going this summer, but it is looking like it might come to fruition this coming winter. I also am starting to partner with other local organizations to host/help them run family wildlife and watershed education programming.
- We do Adopt a Stream events and Water Quality monitoring training. Farm Field Days event, 2 days.
- We hosted a Farmer's breakfast this year that was free for any local community members. We had a few speakers touch on different topics such as BMPS, forestry programs, and hot issues in the agricultural field (tick diseases, avian flu, etc.) This event was a success and allowed many local producers to connect with one another and learn about resources available to them.
- We partner with our Local Extension Office, Farm Bureau office and Master Gardeners Symposium
- Co-Host Watershed Adventure Camp for 4-5 grade at Stauton River Battlefield Park with Halifax and Lake Country SWCD.
- Green Breakfast (morning webinar every other month), rain barrel workshops, composter workshops, annual seedling sale, ag-related clean farm webinars and workshops, stream monitoring workshops
- Rain Barrel Workshops, Yardscape Workshops, Horse/Pasture Workshops, Pesticide Recert Workshop
- Good Growth Outreach Event/Awards Banquet

**Please select all ways that you promote your education programming.**





**(Direct correspondence to schools)**

*Other-Local Parks & Recreation, Tabling Events, Partner Email Listservs (ie Extension)*

**Please share any unique ways or success stories that you have reached schools or individuals in your community.**

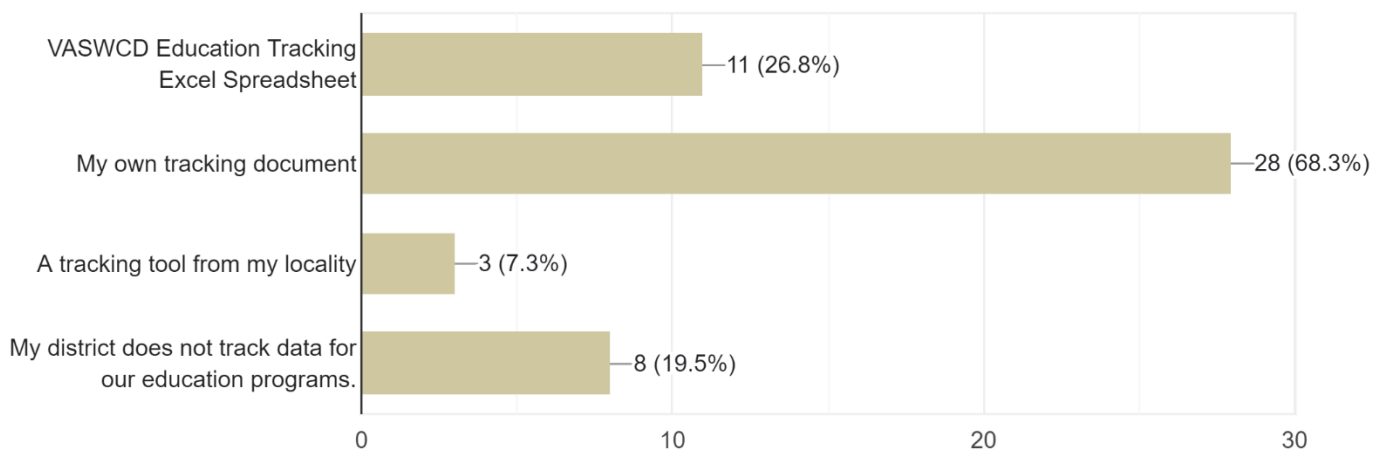
- **Because of our persistent support** over the years, our schools are finally ready to work with us to develop capacity for writing systemic, equitable, and sustainable environmental literacy plans. This is major progress in our **relationships with schools** and represents a lot of work and trust built over time.
- Send mailers & Newsletters through **Constant Contact**
- We partnered with both Buckingham and Cumberland schools for **their 21st Century Grant after school programs and do weekly STEM programs for our local schools**. It's easy to contact the schools and see if they are applying for the 21st Century Grant. They are always looking for partners to include on their grant applications and this will generate lots of educational programs for the District.
- Our YCLI program has grown sharply I believe due to **advertisement of prior students success stories** along with **establishing relationships with Envi Sci teacher(s)**
- For us, the **Envirothon program has been a major educational resource!** It gives us a lot of good exposure and I use it as a "tool" to offer other education programs.
- I send emails to every single teacher each year.
- I have contacts in the school system which make it easier for me to get involved with the school system to do our programs
- By attending Education workshops
- The **Rain Barrel and Compost Workshops** are advertised through the Franklin Co. Parks and Recreation Dept. (life skills) on their website and in their magazine. An interested person registers for one of the district's classes through the FCPR website one week prior to each class. Each quarter, FCPR sends our district 80% of the cost of each class.
- In some instances I **email principals** of each school about opportunities, but in the last couple years I have started **emailing teachers directly** if I don't feel that I am overstepping the principals decisions. Most school districts now have all classes and teachers listed on their websites.
- We have **a unique outreach for underserved schools and students** in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. We have included The Chesapeake Pre-School Initiative (**At Risk Pre-School Program**) in our Agriculture Reading in the Classroom. Every Classroom receives the approved book, and a Partner reads to every classroom. Every School in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake receives a book for their Library, but we go a step further to have this book in their classroom. Our **District pays for every book!** We also have a lottery for our Farm Days and every Title 1 School receives extra lottery tickets to assure that they can attend our Farm Days! We also **pay for any student who cannot attend because of financial needs**. Last year we sponsored a Title One School who was denied

attending our Farm Days because of financial needs. We feel it is imperative to reach all students in our Watershed with Environmental/Agriculture Education Programs.

- We recieved a grant to do a **MWEE teacher training** this past year where we were able to reach 25 teachers from K-12.
- Being a parent in the community and a former teacher has helped our District make connections within Charlotte County Public Schools.

### How do you track education program participation numbers at your district?

41 responses



### Do you have any specific training needs or suggestions?

- I'd love to have training on how best to reach out to community members for collaborative support of MWEE programming in schools.
- I would like to see other's lesson plans.
- This year I ran into how to deal with behavioral issues for after school programs when no teacher is present. I am not a disciplinarian and felt I needed more training to deal with behavioral issues. We solved the problem by requiring a teacher or teacher's aide be present at all programs to deal with behavioral issues.
- MWEEs and How to Create, Promote and Run a "Field Day."
- How to organize an Envirothon group.

**Are you involved with any professional Environmental Education organizations? Select all that apply:**

- Virginia Association for Environmental Education (VAEE)- **15 (36.6%)**
- Virginia Science Education Leadership Association (VSELA) - 0
- Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST)- **2 (4.9%)**
- None- **19 (46.3%)**
- Other- *Nature Conservancy, Project Wild Facilitator, VRUEC, Save Our Streams, Farm Bureau, many used to be active with VAEE, Certification Interpretive Guide*

**Please share any other comment you would like to bring to the attention of the Education Committee and VASWCD Education Foundation.**

- I am new to the district and do find it very important to get the community involved in saving our natural resources. I would like to learn more about how to do this in a cost effective way.
- Love getting together with other educators and hearing their success stories and learning new programs
- If funding allows, I would like to see your Scholarship awarded to every Area of SWCDs in Virginia. Over the years it seems the same Area receives your Scholarship.