

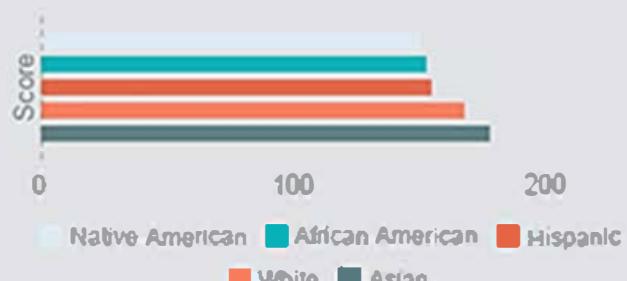
Leveraging & Maximizing

Environmental Education's Catch-up Potential

Achievement Gaps¹

Minority & low income students consistently under perform academically, and to some extend these trends persist in the context of EE, in terms of environmental literacy and representation.

Environmental Literacy²



There are a few exciting exceptions



Racial & Ethnic minorities^{2,3}

Time outdoors seems to build environmental attitudes & behaviors particularly among African American & Hispanic students



Girls^{4,7}

Outdoor EE programs may help keep girls engaged in science



ECBD⁵ students

Outdoor EE may improve attention & behavior among students with IEPs



Test⁶ scores

EIC EE models may mitigate achievement gaps on standardized tests



How can we tell this story?

What other research do you know that is consistent with this? Anecdotes? How can we study this phenomenon more effectively? What research needs to be done?

1. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M. N. & Dunn, L. L. Leveraging natural capital to close the shared education and environment crisis. *Conserv. Biol.* 32, 490–492 (2017). 2. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M. N., Bandel, H. D., Meier, A. G. & Moore, S. E. Environmental, life skills, and demographic predictors of environmental literacy among middle school children. *PLoS One* 8, (2013). 3. Larson, L. R., Whiting, J. W. & Green, G. T. Exploring the influence of outdoor recreation participation on observational behavior in a demographically diverse population. *Local Environ.* 16, 67–86 (2011). 4. Carter, S. J. Environmental education in the schools: Learning styles and gender. *J. Environ. Educ.* 40, 2–12 (2009). 5. Sekhon, R., Carter, S. J. & Stevenson, K. T. Positive Impacts of Outdoor Environmental Education on Attention, Behavior, and Learning Outcomes for Students with Emotional, Cognitive, and Behavioral Disabilities. *Spec. Educ. In Revisio* 1291 (2019). 6. Lieberman, G. A. & Moody, L. L. Closing the achievement gap: Using the environment as an integrating context for learning. *Results of an ethnographic study*. (1994).