

PEI Professional Development Program

PEI brings the following approach to participating school districts:

1. District-wide needs assessment.

PEI generates a status report on current environmental education practices and strengths, gaps and overlaps in curricula, and teacher concerns about teaching methods and focus.

2. Creation of a leadership team.

Two teachers from each school participate on an environmental education leadership team. With the help of PEI facilitators, the leadership team identifies:

- how to coordinate curriculum throughout the district
- ways to build on strengths and strategies to address weaknesses
- needs for training and outside support
- resources within the community

3. Teacher seminars.

Drawing on our consortium of educational experts and natural resource partners, PEI helps teachers to:

- implement education best practices
- integrate learning about the environment and social systems into the school curricula
- align environmental curricula with state learning standards
- design meaningful field investigations for students
- focus on learning-outcomes

4. Support for teachers.

PEI continues to work with each district for three years, supporting teachers and helping them fine-tune educational practices, curricula, and coordination. Using tested methods, PEI helps teachers examine their teaching practices in relation to Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).
