

New Jersey is the First State to Require Climate Change Education

New Jersey has become the first state to mandate climate change education in its kindergarten through 12th-grade curriculum. The state will implement that requirement in September of 2021. New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy partnered with 130 educators and led the push to incorporate climate change into the state's education standards.

The adoption of these standards is much more than an added educational requirement; it is a symbol of a partnership between generations...Decades of short-sighted decision-making has fueled this crisis and now we must do all we can to help our children solve it. This generation of students will feel the effects of climate change more than any other, and it is critical that every student is provided an opportunity to study and understand the climate crisis through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary lens."

Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New Jersey

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Climate change education is woefully unaddressed in the United States. Despite the effects climate change has on people worldwide, a 2019 NPR/Ipsos poll found that only 42% of teachers are teaching climate change. The demand is there, with 4 in 5 teachers and parents saying that students need to be taught this information. Climate change is here and continuing to escalate. States will do their students a grave disservice if they fail to adequately confront this issue.

Sources:

- *New Jersey Is Now the 1st US State to Require Schools to Teach Climate Change* – Global Citizen
- *Most Teachers Don't Teach Climate Change; 4 In 5 Parents Wish They Did* – NPR