

Marine Science waiver information

Marine Science is a dynamic interdisciplinary field that synthesizes biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science to explore and understand ocean systems. Its inclusion as a graduation requirement would provide students with a holistic scientific foundation and deepen their appreciation for the oceans' essential role in sustaining life on Earth.

By integrating Marine Science into the curriculum, schools would not only expand students' scientific literacy but also cultivate environmental responsibility and global ecological awareness—skills and perspectives increasingly vital in today's world. Furthermore, the Code of Alabama §16-45 formally acknowledges the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (MESC) and its educational initiatives. Marine Science courses offered in schools serve as a direct extension of this recognized program, reinforcing its academic and civic value.

To be approved for this waiver, the following components are required:

- **A letter submitted from the superintendent attesting that the attached Marine Science standards will be used.**
- **Verification form included from Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL), an extension of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, that the teacher of the class has received or will participate in Marine Science training for the course. Visit the DISL website at <https://www.disl.edu/dhp/workshops/coast-mar/> for verification form and training dates. If training has been received elsewhere, please include documentation.**
- **A curriculum plan with assessments should be included for the Marine Science standards.**

LEA ongoing assurances

- **Notification of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and AHSAA academic eligibility guidelines are clearly communicated to students and parents. Notification of waiver approval status is reviewed and communicated to school administrators, school staff, students, and parents.**
- **Copy of ALSDE approval will be uploaded to Student Information System (SIS) and a copy will also be included in student cumulative records, when applicable.**

Additionally,

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- **Dauphin Island Sea Lab, an extension of the Marine Environmental Science Consortium, will notify the teacher of training opportunities. There will be two one-day trainings held during the school year in various areas in the state, and two summer intensives at Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Teacher of the course must attend at least one of these trainings and receive verification from DISL of attendance and completion.**

The waiver will be updated every two years and/or when there is a teacher change. The waiver will be renewed when Marine Science standards are updated.