



U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award Rhode Island PreK-12 School Application

Applications due **January 15, 2025** to:
Keelia.kentor@ride.ri.gov

Program Questions: Joseph da Silva, Ph.D, School Building Authority (joseph.dasilva@ride.ri.gov)

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in completing the Rhode Island Department of Education's application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS). To complete this application, you will need to collect data about your school's facility, health, physical education and safety policies; food service; and environmental and sustainability curriculum. You will need to document efforts in all these areas equally, not just one.

ED-GRS recognizes schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their school. A comprehensive approach incorporates environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts. Becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School is a two-step process. The first step is to complete and submit this form to be selected as a nominee by an eligible nominating authority. Once selected as a nominee by your state or eligible nominating authority, the second step of the process requires signatures for the Nominee Presentation Form that will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) along with your application.

ED selects honorees from those presented by eligible nominating authorities nationwide. Selection will be based on documentation of the applicant's high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars:

Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Schools demonstrating progress in all three Pillars will receive highest rankings. It is important to document concrete achievement. See the [Application Guidance Document \[link\]](#) for further instruction. It is recommended that you to assemble a team to complete the application. This team might include: a facilities manager, physical education director, food services director, curriculum director, finance department representatives, teachers, parents, and students. Consult the ED-GRS [Green Strides Resources](#) Page and [Webinar Series](#) for standards, programs and grants related to each Pillar, Element, and question. This is an excellent clearinghouse of information for all schools, not only those who apply.

Applications are due by January 15, 2025 to keelia.kentor@ride.ri.gov. We will select nominees and submit them to the U.S. Department of Education by February 1, 2025.

Note that if selected for nomination to ED-GRS, the school principal and district superintendent must be prepared to certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true; however, in no case is a private school required to make any certification regarding the public school district in which it is located.

1. The school has some configuration that includes one or more of grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction as highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however,

are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.

4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Applicant Information

School Information			
School Name:		District Name:	
Street Address:			
Facebook Page:		Website:	
School Principal Information			
Name:		Phone:	
E-mail:			
Principal Signature*:			
Superintendent Information			
Name:		Phone:	
E-mail:			
Superintendent Signature*:			
Lead Applicant Information (if different)			
Name:		Phone:	
E-mail:			
Lead Applicant Signature*:			
*By signing, Principal and/or Lead Applicant assure that the information provided is accurate to the extent possible.			
School Demographics			
Grade Level	School Type	School Setting	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Learning Center <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (PK-5 or 6) <input type="checkbox"/> K-8 <input type="checkbox"/> Middle (6-8 or 9) <input type="checkbox"/> High (9 or 10-12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private/Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Magnet	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural	
Is your school in one of the largest 50 districts in the nation?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
% Receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunch:		% Limited English Proficient:	
School Enrollment/Graduation/Attendance			
Total Enrolled:		Graduation Rate:	
		Attendance Rate:	
Is your school participating in a local, state, or national school program, such as EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, EcoSchools, Project Learning Tree, or others, which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Program(s) and level(s) achieved:		
Has your school received any awards for facilities, health, or environment?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Award(s) and year(s):		

Narrative

Provide a narrative describing what makes your school worthy of becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School and provide a “snapshot” of your school’s efforts to address the ED-GRS Pillars and their corresponding Elements:

Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- Element 1A: Reduced or Eliminated Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Element 1B: Improved Water Quality, Efficiency, and Conservation
- Element 1C: Reduced Waste Production
- Element 1D: Use of Alternative Transportation

Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.

- Element 2A: Integrated School Environmental Health Program
- Element 2B: Nutrition and Fitness
- Element 2C: Coordinated School Health, Mental Health, School Climate, and Safety

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

- Element 3A: Shared Responsibility for Environmental Learning
- Element 3B: Use of the Environment and Sustainability to Develop STEM Content
- Element 3C: Development and Application of Civic Knowledge and Skills

The total Application Narrative portion of the application, including the Summary Narrative, may not exceed 15 pages.

For additional guidance please reference the framework provided in the [Application Guidance Document \[link\]](#).

Supporting Visual Documentation

Applicants are encouraged to submit up to five (5) photos (with appropriate permissions) or up to five (5) minutes of video content. Attach photos/video in a zipped folder separate from this application document in the same email submission as the application. Visual documentation does not count toward the page limit.