Minnesota Department of Education

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GreenRibbonSchools

2013-14 Minnesota Green Ribbon Schools Award
District Application

Thank you for your interest in completing the Minnesota application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS). In order to complete this application, you will need to collect data about your district's facility, health, physical education and safety policies; food service; and environmental and sustainability curriculum.

Applications are due by December 18, 2013. To complete this application, save the PDF to your computer, enter your responses and save again. Additional attachments should be saved in a separate document and submitted with the application.

To submit this application, email John Olson the completed application and supporting documents. You may direct questions to John at the same e-mail or by calling 651-582-8673.

Through its District Sustainability Award, ED-GRS recognizes districts taking a comprehensive approach to greening. A comprehensive approach incorporates environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts. Becoming a U.S. Department of Education District Sustainability Awardee is a two-step process. The first step is to complete and submit this form to be selected as a nominee by the Commissioner of MDE. This determination will be made by February 1. If selected as a Minnesota Finalist, the second step of the process requires a summary narrative describing your district's efforts and signatures for the nominee package that will be sent to ED. Schools selected by ED as National Winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22 and will receive a flag, plaque and invitation to the national ceremony in Washington, DC.

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.

Districts demonstrating exemplary achievement in all three Pillars will receive highest rankings. It is important to document concrete achievement.

It will help 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 and students. You should consult the ED-GRS resources page and the Minnesota resource page at the end of this document for standards, programs and grants related to each Pillar, Element and question. These are excellent clearinghouses of resources for all schools, not just those who apply. Please also visit the ED-GRS website. Consult the MDE Green Ribbon Schools website for applications, other materials, and announcements.

The questions in this application will help you demonstrate your high achievement in these Pillars as well as provide space for you to include pertinent documentation. You should **consult the School Application** for examples of data that could be supplied to support your claims. **Note that the application focuses on district-wide policies, data and practices** rather than a collection of school-level activities.

If selected for nomination to ED-GRS, the 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.

1. The district has been evaluated and selected from among districts within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.

2. The district is providing 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.

3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated 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.

4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the school district has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.

5. 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 school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.

6. The district 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.

Application Outline:

Cross-Cutting Question: Participation in green school programs: 5 %	5 points

ED-GRS Pillar and Elements: Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs: 30%	**Points**
Element 1A: Reduced or eliminated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (preference for schools that have used) State of Minnesota B3Benchmarking) Energy Buildings	15 points
Element 1B: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation Water Grounds	5 points
Element 1C: Reduced waste production Waste Hazardous waste	5 points
Element 1D: Use of alternative transportation	5 points

ED-GRS Pillar and Elements: Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff: 30%	**Points**
Element 2A: Integrated school environmental health program Integrated Pest Management Contaminant controls and Ventilation Asthma control Indoor air quality Moisture control Chemical management	15 points
Element 2B: Nutrition and fitness Fitness and outdoor time Food and Nutrition	15 points

ED-GRS Pillar and Elements: Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways: 35%	**Points**
Element 3A: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy and human systems	20 points
Element 3B: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills	5 points
Element 3C: Development and application of civic knowledge and skills	10 points

Total	**100 Points**

Green Ribbon Schools – District Application 2013-14

District Information

District Name:_____

Street Address:_____

City: _____

State: MN Zip:_____

Website:_____

Facebook page: _____

Superintendent Name:_____

Superintendent Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Lead Applicant Name (if different): _____

Lead Applicant Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of schools at each grade level

Elementary (PK – 5 or 6):_____

K-8:_____

Middle (6-8 or 9):_____

High School (9 or 10 – 12):_____

Other:_____

How would you describe your district: (place an "x" after your choice)

Urban: _____

Suburban:_____

Rural:_____

Total Enrolled: _____

Does your school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households?_____Yes____No

Percentage receiving Free or Reduced Priced Lunch: _____

Percentage limited English proficient: _____

Other measures: _____

Graduation Rate: _____

Attendance rate: _____

Cross-Cutting Programs

1. Is your district participating in a local, state or national 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?

_____Yes_____No

Program(s) and level(s) achieved:

_____

2. Has your district received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

_____Yes_____No

Award(s) and year(s):

_____

3. Does the district have a sustainability program or coordinator? If yes, describe it.

_____Yes_____No

Summary Narrative

Provide an 800 word maximum narrative describing your district's efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Focus on unique and innovative, yet replicable, practices and partnerships, especially those not covered in other parts of the application
(Please attach question and answer on a separate document)

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Describe how your district is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and using alternative transportation. Identify your district's energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes. Provide data to support your claims. (See the school application for possible data sources)
(Please attach question and answer on a separate document)

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

Describe how your district improves the health and wellness of students and staff by integrating a school environmental health program and promoting sound nutritional and fitness practices. You should discuss integrated pest management, contaminant controls and ventilation, asthma controls, indoor air quality, moisture control, and chemical management. Address the amount and type of outdoor time that your students and staff have, as well as the types of fresh, local, and organic food that they eat. Other components you may want to include are: health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, staff health promotion and family and community involvement. (See the school application for possible data sources)
(Please attach question and answer on a separate document)

Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Describe how your district provides effective environmental and sustainability education by incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your district uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills. You should also discuss how your district develops and applies civic knowledge and skills to environmental and sustainability education. **(Please attach question and answer on a separate document)**

Green Ribbon Schools Minnesota Application Resources (2013-14)

[Applicants should delete these resource pages before submitting the final application]

Cross-Cutting Programs:

- School Environmental Health portal, MN Dept. of Health
- The State of Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines
- US Green Building Council's Center for Green Schools
- Earth Day Network's Green Schools Program
- Green School Alliance School Program
- National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools Recognition Program
- Project Learning Tree's Green Schools!
- Environmental Initiative Minnesota Environmental Education Award
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Governor's Awards for Pollution Prevention

Pillar 1:

Energy:

- State of Minnesota's B3 Benchmarking
- CERT's Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon
- DOE and EPA's ENERGY STAR for K-12 Districts
- EPA's Portfolio Manager
- ASHRAE's Energy Design: K-12 Schools
- State Incentives for Renewable Energy Database
- Minnesota Renewable Energy Society's Renewable Energy and Schools Guide
- EPA Guidelines for Energy Management Overview
- EPA's Energy Star Benchmarking Kit
- DOE Purchasing for Energy Efficient Products
- DOE Open Energy Information Wiki
- DOE K-12 Energy Curriculum Site
- Youth Energy Summit
- Water and Grounds:
- EPA WaterSense
- Minnesota DNR's School Forest Program
- Minnesota DNR's Landscaping with Native Plants

Waste:

- EPA WasteWise
- EPA Tools to Reduce Waste in Schools
- EPA's Waste Free Lunches
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Helping Schools Reduce Polllution

- Reduce.org
- Recycle More MN School Recycling Toolkit
- Conservatree
- FSC Certified Paper
- PEFC Certified Paper
- CDC Hazardous Waste Self-Management Checklist
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Healthy Sustainable Schools Guide
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Mercury in Schools
- EPA's Safe Chemical Management in Schools
- EPA's Design for the Environment
- Green Seal's Institutional Cleaning Services Standard
- ISSA's Cleaning Industry/Management Standards
- Consumer Reports Ecolabels
- Green Seal's Green Cleaning Products
- Ecologo's Cleaning and Janitorial Products
- Green Guard Environmental Institute
- Green Cleaning for Healthy Schools
- Keep America Beautiful's School Recycling Competition
- Terra Cycle – Outsmart Waste
- Grades of Green Trash Redux
- Consortium for School Networking Initiative Green Computing for K-12 Schools
- EPEAT Green Electronics Registry
- Consumer Electronics Association Greener Gadgets

Alternative Transportation:

- Carpool to School
- EPA's Clean School Bus USA
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's School Bus Information
- Clean Air Minnesota's Project Green Fleet
- MNDOT's Bicycling in Minnesota
- MNDOT's Pedestrians in Minnesota
- Safe Routes to School
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools' Transportation Plan
- USDOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety
- Walking School Bus
- Green Education Foundation I Ride Green Program

Pillar Two:

Environmental Health:

- School Environmental Health portal, Mn Dept. of Health
- Green Education Foundation Healthy Schools Audit
- Beyond Pesticides Model School Policy
- CDC Tools for Making Your School Asthma-Friendly
- American Lung Association Asthma Friendly Schools Toolkit
- CDC Guidelines for Schools to Prevent Tobacco Use

- EPA Assessing Outdoor Air Near Schools
- EPA School Flag Program
- CDC Underground Storage Tank Checklist
- EPA Drinking Water in Schools Facilities
- MDH's Drinking Water in Schools

Nutrition and Fitness:

- USDA Healthier US School Challenge
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- USDA Farm to School Program
- USDA National Organic Program
- National Farm to School Network
- University of Minnesota Extension's Farm to School Program
- Minnesota Department of Health's Farm to School Program
- Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools
- Green Schools Initiative's Green Food Service
- The Edible Schoolyard Project
- CNCS: Expand Access to Healthy Local Food
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- The Healthy School Lunch Campaign
- The President's Youth Fitness Challenge
- The First Lady's Let's Move!
- Partnership for A Healthier America
- Healthy Schools Campaign, Food and Fitness
- Schoolyard Garden Summit Minnesota

Pillar 3:

Environmental and Sustainability Education:

- SEEK: Minnesota's Home of Environmental Education Resources
- Minnesota Department of Education K-12 Academic Standards
- State of Minnesota's GreenPrint: State Plan for Environmental Education
- State of Minnesota's Environmental Literacy Scope and Sequence
- North American Association for Environmental Education
- NAAEE's Excellence in Environmental Education: Guidelines for Learning (K-12)
- Minnesota Association for Environmental Education
- Green Education Foundation's Curriculum Clearinghouse
- Advanced Placement's Environmental Science
- State Education & Environment Roundtable (SEER)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Education Programs
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources School Forest Program
- getSTEM of Minnesota
- DOE EnergyKids
- EPA Student's Guide to Global Climate Change
- NOAA Climate Services: Education
- ED Resources for Educational Excellence, Environment

- NSF Digital Library for Earth System Education
- US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development
- 4-H Exploring Your Environment
- NOAA/ EPA Environmental Education Evaluation Resource Assistant
- Eco-Schools USA
- Project Learning Tree's *Green Schools!*
- National Resources Defense Council Green Squad
- GLOBE
- EPA Environmental Education Grants
- EPA President’s Environmental Youth Awards
- National Environmental Education Week
- Children and Nature Network
- NWF Get Outside
- School Garden Wizard
- Green Thumb Challenge
- Project Earth
- Planet Connect