



2025 RHODE ISLAND GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

Rhode Island Department of Education,
School Building Authority



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education



RHODE ISLAND
GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS





Congratulations

Schools that are built better, perform better and with great enthusiasm, we announce the **2025 Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools Awards**. This year, the Green Ribbon School Awards are presented by the Rhode Island Department of Education's (RIDE) School Building Authority (SBA) through the Healthy Environments Advance Learning (HEAL) Program.

This award celebrates schools that exemplify excellence in **health, safety, and sustainability**. Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools set the standard for reducing environmental impact and while fostering resilient, future-ready communities empowering both students and educators to thrive in 21st Century Learning Environments.

Rhode Island is a national leader in Climate-Friendly Education. **The seven 2025 Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools join the ranks of 24 other Rhode Island schools** that have previously received the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Award.

Rhode Island is turning green and leading the way!

2025 Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools Awardees

Wilbur and McMahon School
(Little Compton)

Henry J. Winters Elementary
(Pawtucket)

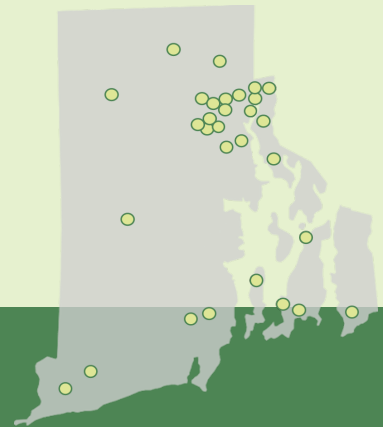
McGuire Elementary School
(North Providence)

Stephen Olney Elementary School
(North Providence)

Narducci Learning Center
(Providence)

Pleasant View Elementary School
(Providence)

North Smithfield High School



Thank you to our local education agencies, Superintendents, Facility Directors, Principals, and all the staff for their hard work throughout the school year. Without you the 2025 Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools award would not be possible. Through your leadership we are turning RI Green!



Overview

The Rhode Island Green Ribbon Schools award honors schools and districts for their outstanding efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, and provide effective sustainability education.

Modeled after the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program, this recognition is grounded in three core pillars:

1. Reducing environmental impact and costs;
2. Improving the health and wellness of students and staff;
3. Providing effective sustainability education.

Since 2007, Rhode Island has prioritized providing our students learning environments that are safe, clean and environmentally responsible; supported by regulations that promote uniformity and equity in school construction. As a result, RI public schools built or renovated over the last 15 years use at least 30% less energy and 20% less water, reflecting the state's strong commitment to sustainability and efficiency in education.

Read each school's profile to find how they are leading the way for greener schools across the State of Rhode Island.



The **School Building Authority's Healthy Environments Advance Learning (HEAL)** program is dedicated to advancing student centered equity and excellence by transforming schools into 21st Century Learning Environments. Through innovative strategies and targeted support, HEAL enhances the physical and operational quality of school facilities; creating healthier, more energy-efficient, and sustainable spaces for learning. Our mission is to empower schools, educators, and students by addressing infrastructure challenges, improving student well-being, and driving academic success across Rhode Island communities.



Acknowledgements

State of RI Congressional Delegation

Rhode Island Senator, US Congress – **Jack Reed**
Rhode Island Senator, US Congress – **Sheldon Whitehouse**
Congressman, Rhode Island District 1 – **Gabe Amo**
Congressman, Rhode Island District 2 – **Seth Magaziner**

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Significant Partners

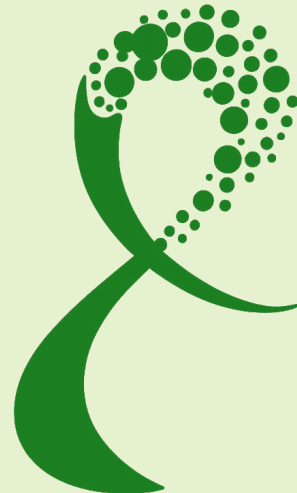
RI Department of Administration Division of EDI – **Tomás Ávila**
RI Department of Health – **Ashley Robinette, Linda Mendoca**
RI Office of Energy Resources – **George Sfinarolakis, PhD**
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission – **Karen Bradbury**
21st Century Fund – **Mary Filardo, Michelle Shirk**
National Center on School Infrastructure – **Jeff Vincent**
United States Green Building Council – **Anisa Heming**
National Council on School Facilities – **Brandon Payne**
National School Plant Management Association – **Ken Wertz**
RI Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals AFT AFL-CIO –
Maribeth Calabro
RI AFL-CIO – **Patrick Crowley**
Build RI – **Gregory A. Mancini**
Laborers International Union of North America –
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RI Energy – **Michael Cunningham**
The Energy Efficiency Group – **Eli Bossin**
RI Health and Educational Building Corporation – **Dylan Zelazo**
Rhode Island College – **James C. Murphy**
UndauntedK12 – **Jonathan Klein, Sara Ross**
Brown University – **Natalie Kopp, Georgia Lagoudas, Sabrina Chwalek**
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American Lung Association – **Rebecca Padilla, Jill Heins,**
Daniel Fitzgerald
RI Environmental Education Association – **Jeanine Silversmith**
US Fish and Wildlife Service – **Cindy Corsair**
Thinklite Air – **Dinesh Wadhvani, Barry Fleischer**

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LITTLE COMPTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

WILBUR-MCMAHON



The Little Compton School District is being recognized for its exceptional commitment to sustainability, student wellness, and environmental education. Through strategic initiatives aligned with the Green Ribbon Schools pillars, the district has significantly reduced its environmental impact while creating healthier, more engaging learning environments.

A standout project, the Eco Oasis, serves as both a thriving habitat for pollinators and a dynamic outdoor classroom, seamlessly integrating environmental stewardship into the student learning experience. Additionally, Little Compton's use of the Tools for Schools Program has led to proactive improvements in indoor air quality, including the installation of MERV-13 HEPA filters, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for students and staff.

Little Compton exemplifies how thoughtful planning, innovation, and education can come together to create resilient, future-ready schools.

Little Compton has made significant strides in advancing sustainability by reducing its environmental impact, promoting the health and wellness of students and staff, and integrating sustainable practices throughout its educational practices and physical infrastructure.



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- All equipment used meets ENERGY STAR standards, ensuring high energy efficiency and long-term cost savings.

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

- Utilizes Tools for Schools walkthrough program to proactively assess building conditions.
- MERV-13 HEPA filters were installed to reduce asthma triggers and significantly enhance indoor air quality.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- An "Eco Oasis" (EO) was created as a vibrant natural habitat for pollinators featuring native flora. This outdoor classroom offers hands-on, curriculum-embedded learning experiences.



WINTERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PAWTUCKET SCHOOL DISTRICT



Henry J. Winters Elementary School is a newly constructed, 21st-century learning environment designed to support STEAM education and sustainability. Through hands-on science projects, such as solar oven construction, water quality monitoring, and energy audits, students engage in real-world problem-solving.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program, a partnership with the University of Rhode Island, brings nutrition and wellness programming to both families and students, reinforcing healthy habits and community engagement.

By integrating environmental education and wellness into everyday learning, Winters is preparing students to be thoughtful, solutions-oriented leaders for a sustainable future.

Henry J. Winters Elementary School is a newly constructed, 21st century facility, designed to support the STEAM philosophy and foster authentic, hands on learning experiences.



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- Uses non-toxic cleaning products to minimize harmful effects on indoor air quality.

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

- Participates in the URI Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, offering students a variety of nutritious produce to encourage healthier eating habits and promote wellness.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- Hydration stations installed throughout the school help reduce plastic waste, promote water conservation, and serve as daily, tangible lessons in sustainability encouraging students to make environmentally responsible choices.



MCGUIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NORTH PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



McGuire Elementary School is a modern, thoughtfully designed facility that integrates sustainability and conservation into everyday learning, from outdoor classrooms to energy-efficient motion sensor lighting.

A strong emphasis on emotional well-being is demonstrated through the school's partnership with Paws From the Heart, bringing certified therapy dogs on-site. These visits foster empathy, reduce stress, and boost student engagement. The therapy dogs support reading practice, mindfulness, and emotional resilience, serving as vital companions especially for students with special needs by enhancing communication and social skills.

Last year, over 200 students participated in these therapy sessions, achieving full engagement and contributing to a nurturing, inclusive school environment.

McGuire Elementary School is a newly constructed, state-of-the-art facility designed to foster sustainability and hands-on learning experiences.



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- On-site plantings are indigenous and self-sustaining, conserving water while supporting the local ecosystems.

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

- McGuire features an accessible playground, ensuring all students have equal access to play equipment and walking areas.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- The building is equipped with MERV-13 air filters, enhancing indoor air quality by reducing exposure to dust, pollen, and other airborne contaminants.



STEPHEN OLNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NORTH PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Stephen Olney Elementary School (SOS) is a newly constructed, 21st-century facility that combines environmentally friendly design with a strong emphasis on mental health and wellness.

In partnership with Gateway Health, SOS offers expanded mental health support to students and families, supplementing the school's social workers and psychologists through Therapeutic Programs focused on improving student well-being, school climate, and safety.

Recognizing the benefits of outdoor time for mental health, SOS integrates nature into daily learning. Students engage in outdoor observations, writing activities, and hands-on gardening projects. Their outdoor garden, cultivated by 5th graders, features herbs, vegetables, and plants, with plans to expand this initiative through environmental education and community partnerships. Additionally, SOS is committed to sustainability practices including reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.

Stephen Olney Elementary School (SOS) is a newly constructed, 21st-century building that prioritizes both environmental sustainability and student mental health.



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- Replaced unrecyclable foam trays with biodegradable trays that reduced landfill waste from 14 bags of a day to 1 partially filled bag a day

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

- A new shared space allows students and staff to repurpose uneaten food
- Students manage compost stations during select lunch periods

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- SOS joined Roch's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- They partnered with Birchwood Middle School to share produce, minimizing food waste



NARDUCCI LEARNING CENTER

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Narducci Learning Center is a state-of-the-art swing space facility that supports Providence Public School District's (PPSD) strategic modernization plan by providing flexible, temporary school housing during major renovations and new construction. Located on the revitalized site of the former Windmill Elementary School, Narducci not only ensures uninterrupted learning but also serves as an innovative testing ground for 21st-century educational environments.

The Narducci Learning Center integrates flexible, student-centered design to inform future district-wide school improvements. Since its opening, Narducci has successfully accommodated Pleasant View and Kizirian Elementary Schools during their transitions, exemplifying PPSD's commitment to maintaining continuity, fostering innovation, and advancing equity in education.

As the cornerstone of a historic facilities plan, Narducci Learning Center is a state-of-the-art swing space designed to maximize learning time when students' home schools undergo renovation or new construction.



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- Installed energy efficient windows and upgraded HVAC components to modern and efficient systems.

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

- The district now diverts 1.8 tons of waste from the RI landfill, equivalent to the weight of a car (1,440 lbs.); a 40% reduction in solid waste.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- The district has partnered with Operation Bootstrap, a RI Recycling Club, to launch a lunchroom waste reduction program and educated students as Recycling Rangers.



PLEASANT VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Pleasant View Elementary School in Providence's Mt. Pleasant neighborhood is a key part of PPSD's plan to modernize schools with 21st-century learning environments. During 2023-24, the school temporarily moved to the Narducci Learning Center swing space while undergoing major renovations.

Reopened in September 2024, Pleasant View features energy-efficient upgrades, improved HVAC, modern security, flexible learning spaces, and enhanced accessibility to support its diverse student population. Its campus also offers valuable community resources like a recreation center and athletic fields. This renovation supports PPSD's goal to provide all students with modern, inclusive facilities by 2030.

Pleasant View Elementary School serves a diverse student population, with 47% of its students having additional needs or abilities. All of these updates are designed to foster a more inclusive, engaging, and adaptable school experience for all students.



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- Low-flow toilets and metered faucets were installed to support water conservation and the building's sustainability goals.

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

- Earned the Learning Inside Out grant to design outdoor classroom, creating more equitable access to the outdoors.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- The 5th Grade Character Council was developed to lead initiatives such as the Earth Day cleanup and maintain the community pollinator garden.



NORTH SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

NORTH SMITHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



North Smithfield High School (NSHS), demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental sustainability through its School Improvement Plan (SIP). The plan fosters shared responsibility for environmental education and action, aligning with the school's goals to increase awareness and stewardship.

To comply with the Green Building Act, NSHS has undertaken key projects including replacing aging single-pane windows with energy-efficient thermal-pane windows, transitioning to electric landscaping equipment, securing a multi-year remote solar net metering agreement, and upgrading all interior lighting to high-efficiency LEDs via a National Grid grant.

Water sustainability efforts include installing filtration systems to remove PFAS contaminants and adding filtered water bottle filling stations throughout the campus. These initiatives have eliminated waste from over 67,000 single-use plastic water bottles as of January 2025.

A proactive maintenance team conducts weekly building inspections to promptly address moisture and other issues, supporting both immediate repairs and long-term facility planning, such as roof replacement.

After introducing the composting program at lunch, 81% of North Smithfield students agreed with the statement: "I think it is important to compost and take action to help the environment."



Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.

- The AP Environmental Science class learned that 1% of global carbon emissions are from stand-by devices and developed the "Energy Vampire" Campaign, to reminds students to unplug devices and save energy.

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

- Environmental awareness is a key priority in the School Improvement Plan, fostering shared responsibility and setting clear goals to increase environmental learning and action.

Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

- The Environmental Science class piloted a vermicomposting initiative both at school and students' homes, promoting sustainable waste management.





RED POINT

RED POINT



2025

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The District of Little Compton

Henry J. Winters Elementary
Pawtucket School Department

McGuire Elementary School
Stephen Olney Elementary School
North Providence School Department

Narducci Learning Center
Pleasant View Elementary School
Providence Public School District

North Smithfield High School
North Smithfield School Department



*Honoring Leadership in Creating
Healthy Environments to Advance Learning*

Angelica Infante-Green, Commissioner of Education



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