



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

Applications due **January 15, 2024** to:
keelia.kentor@ride.ri.gov

Program Questions: Dr. Joseph da Silva, School Building Authority (joseph.dasilva@ride.ri.gov 401.222.4294)

Application Support: Jeanine Silversmith, Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (jsilversmith@rieaa.org)

Background

Thank you for your interest in completing the RI Department of Education School Building Authority's application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS), District Sustainability Award, or Postsecondary Sustainability Award. ED-GRS recognizes early learning centers, schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions taking a comprehensive approach to sustainability, incorporating environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts. You must show progress in each of the following Pillars and all of their corresponding elements found [here](#):

Pillar I: Reducing environmental impact and costs;

Pillar II: Improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and

Pillar III: Offering effective environmental and sustainability education.

Early learning centers, schools, and districts, demonstrating progress in every area will receive highest scores. It will help to assemble a team with expertise across these areas to complete the application. You may also wish to consult the [Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub](#) for resources to progress in each Pillar.

Applications are due by to keelia.kentor@ride.ri.gov by **January 15, 2024**. Rhode Island will send nominations to the U.S. Department of Education no later than January 29, 2024. Please contact Dr. Joseph da Silva, School Building Authority, (joseph.dasilva@ride.ri.gov or 401.222.4294) if you have questions.

Nominee Information

School, District, or Postsecondary Institution Name:		
Category of Nomination (Early Learning Center, School, District, or Postsecondary):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Twitter:	Facebook:	

Top Official (School=Principal; District=Superintendent; IHE= President):

Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr.):	First Name:	Last Name:
Position/Role (Principal/ Superintendent/ President):		
Email:	Phone:	

Lead Applicant (if different):

Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr.):	First Name:	Last Name:
Position/Role (Teacher/ Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director):		
Email:	Phone:	

Check all that apply:

Early Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Four Year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Magnet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban	<input type="checkbox"/>
High	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural	<input type="checkbox"/>
Career and Technical	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suburban	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provide Percentages, if any are relevant to your school, district or institution:

Pell Recipients:	<input type="text"/>	Limited English Proficient:	<input type="text"/>	Attendance Rate:	<input type="text"/>
Free and Reduced Price Lunch:	<input type="text"/>	Special Education:	<input type="text"/>		
Minority:	<input type="text"/>	Graduation Rate:	<input type="text"/>		

Provide the following, if relevant:

Total Enrolled:	<input type="text"/>	Number of Schools:	<input type="text"/>	Buildings:	<input type="text"/>	Campuses:	<input type="text"/>
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Documentation of Sustainability Achievement

Narrative for Pillar 1: Your Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Use 2-4 pages to describe how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and/or using alternative transportation. Identify your energy-efficient facilities and practices, your efforts to decarbonize and electrify your premises, ecologically and educationally beneficial uses of grounds, and/or methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes. Use supporting data and reference participation in pertinent benchmarking programs to demonstrate progress where possible.

Narrative for Pillar 2: Your Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Use 2-4 pages to describe how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution improves the health and wellness of students and staff by integrating a school environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss indoor and outdoor environmental quality; cleaning and maintenance; mold and moisture; thermal and acoustical comfort; chemical and environmental contaminants; air quality and ventilation; pests and pesticide, as well as nutrition and outdoors physical activity. Other components you may include are health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, sun safety, staff health promotion, and/or family and community involvement. Incorporate metrics and include program participation where possible.

Narrative for Pillar 3: Your Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Use 2-4 pages to describe how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution ensures effective environmental and sustainability education throughout the curriculum. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills, and teach all subjects in context. You should discuss how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution develops and applies civic knowledge and skills to environmental and sustainability education. All STEM and civics work should be described as it relates to environmental and sustainability learning. Detail any environmental or sustainability literacy standards, show how these concepts are integrated into assessments, and describe environmental and sustainability literacy professional development. Include co-curricular opportunities such as field trips, study abroad, clubs, and service learning. This section should describe hands-on, place-, project-, and/or problem-based, authentic learning across the curriculum, not limited to one subject.

Summary Narrative: An Overview of Your Work Encompassing All Three Pillars

Use one substantive paragraph to provide an overview narrative describing your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution's efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health and wellness; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. This overarching summary should highlight the best of your work in every ED-GRS Pillar and Element. You can view examples of summary narratives in last year's [Highlights Report](#). The summary that you submit should be what you would like to see appear in a future Highlights Report, if your institution is selected. It may be helpful to pull from your previous three narratives to write the summary.

Photos: Please submit 5-10 high resolution photographs with brief descriptions including who, what, when, and where. Photos should be candid action shots, and not posed or collaged. They should be recent (i.e. from within the last three years). By sending these photos, you are giving Rhode Island and the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them in our newsletter and social media.

End of Application