Thank you for your interest in completing the Pennsylvania 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](https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/eligibility.html):

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, districts, and postsecondary institutions demonstrating progress in every area will receive the 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](http://www.greenstrides.org) for resources to progress in each Pillar.

## Nominee Information

School, District, or Postsecondary Institution Name:

Category of Nomination (Early Learning Center, School, District, or Postsecondary):

Type of Nomination Application:

* School (PreK-12)
* Early Learning Center (PreK-2)
* District
* Postsecondary

**Please also consider my school, district, or organization for the following PA Level Recognitions (Select all that apply):**

* **Success! One Pillar Complete** - PA ONLY
* **Success! Two Pillars Complete** - PA ONLY
* **Success! Three Pillars Complete** – PA State Finalist Level ALSO eligible for US ED GRS nomination
* **Continued Improvement** Recognition for Past U.S.DOE GRS awardees (for schools or districts that have already achieved but would like to continue expanding programs and efforts related to environmental literacy and sustainability)

**Our school has included examples of our work in the flowing areas and would like to be considered for recognition of these efforts. (Note: Explicit description and evidence of efforts must be included and highlighted in the appropriate narrative sections)**

* Agriculture Education
* Climate Resilience
* Environmental Justice
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Plan Development
* Systemic Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Curriculum Integration
* Litter, Recycling, and Waste Management Efforts
* Continued Improvement Recognition for Past U.S.DOE GRS awardees (for schools or districts that have already achieved but would like to continue expanding programs and efforts related to environmental literacy and sustainability)

Address:       City:       State:      Zip:      Twitter:       Facebook:

Top official: 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 ☐

Elementary ☐

Middle ☐

High ☐

Public ☐

Charter ☐

Magnet ☐

Non-Public ☐

Two-Year ☐

Four-Year ☐

Community College ☐

Career and Technical ☐

Urban ☐

Rural ☐

Suburban ☐

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

Pell Recipients:

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch:

Minority:

Limited English Proficient:

Special Education:

Graduation Rate:

Attendance Rate:

Provide the following:

Total Enrolled:       Number of Schools:       Buildings:       Campuses:

## Documentation of Sustainability Achievements

**You must address** **each** of the following Pillars and all of their corresponding elements found below. Please use the corresponding word count to keep answers short, concise, and focused on how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution is demonstrating progress in that area. Note that this award is not a menu of options, all elements must be answered to be considered complete.

Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Describe your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution efforts to address each of the following elements within Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impacts and Costs. Use supporting data and reference participation in pertinent benchmarking programs to demonstrate progress where possible.

#### **Element: Reduced or eliminated greenhouse gas emissions, using an energy audit or emissions inventory and reduction plan, cost-effective energy efficiency improvements, conservation measures, on-site renewable energy and/or purchase of green power, or other efforts to decarbonize/ electrify**

200 – 500 word response[[1]](#footnote-1)

#### **Element: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation: including the use of onsite best management practices inside and outside the property**

200 – 500 word response

#### **Element: Reduced solid and hazardous waste production through increased recycling and composting, reduced consumption, and improved management, reduction, or elimination of hazardous waste; and improved management, reduction, or elimination of toxic cleaning chemicals or hazardous waste**

200 – 500 word response

#### **Element: Expanded use of alternative transportation, through active promotion of locally available, energy-efficient options and implementation of alternative transportation supportive projects and policies**

200 – 500 word response

***Element: Identify your energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically and educationally beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes.***

200-500 word response

### Pillar 2: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Describe how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution addresses each element within Pillar 2: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff. Incorporate metrics and include program participation where possible.

#### **Element: High standards of** [**Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Health**](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscc/index.htm)**, including nutrition and outdoor physical activity; health, counseling, and psychological services for both students and staff; and family and community involvement.**

**200 – 500 word response**

*May include:*

* + *Nutrition and improved access to healthy foods in and out of school;*
  + *Outdoors physical activity;*
  + *Other components you may include are health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, sun safety, staff health promotion, and family and community involvement;*
  + *Incorporate metrics and include program participation where possible*

#### **Element:** [**Integrated school environmental health program**](https://www.epa.gov/schools) **that considers occupant health and safety in all design, construction, renovation, operations, and maintenance of facilities and grounds, including indoor and outdoor environmental quality; cleaning and maintenance; mold and moisture; chemical and environmental contaminants; air quality and ventilation; and pests and pesticide.**

**200 – 500 word response**

*May include:*

* + *Integration of an environmental health program that considers sound health and wellness and safety in all design, construction, renovation, operations, and maintenance of facilities and grounds;*
  + *Encourages implementation of integrated pest management or other preventative protocols in the following areas:*
    - *Cleaning and maintenance;*
    - *Mold and moisture prevention and remediation*
    - *Reduce student and staff exposure to chemical and environmental contaminants;*
  + *Ventilation, improved indoor air quality;*
  + *Pest management and pesticide use reductions.*

### Pillar 3: Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Describe how your early learning center, school, district, or postsecondary institution addresses each element within Pillar III: Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education. This section should describe hands-on, place-, project-, and problem-based, authentic learning across the curriculum, not limited to one subject.

#### **Element: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems.**

200 – 500 word response

#### **Element: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content knowledge and thinking skills to prepare graduates for the 21st-century technology-driven economy**

200 – 500 word response

#### **Element: Development of civic engagement knowledge and skills and students' application of such knowledge and skills to address sustainability issues in their community**

200 – 500 word response

## Summary Narrative

**Use one 200 – 300-word 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](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html). 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, not posed or collaged. They should be recent – from within the last three years. By sending these photos, you are giving [state name] and the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them in our newsletter and social media.

1. Word counts are merely suggested. States can make these counts whatever they wish. Know that total submission to ED length must not exceed 20 pages. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)