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Since 2012, New Jersey’s schools have been celebrated locally and nationally for implementing cost-saving, health promoting, and performance-enhancing sustainability practices. All K-12 public, charter, and independent schools are invited to complete an application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS).

School applications will be evaluated, scored, and ranked based on documentation of the applicant's high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars described below, as measured by a wide variety of benchmarks and practices to:

Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and cost;

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

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

The New Jersey DOE can nominate up to five schools to the U.S. Department of Education (USED). Upon review of the applications, the USED will award Green Ribbons to schools that meet and exemplify the program criteria. School awardees are announced each Spring and recognized at a national ceremony in the following Summer/Fall.

**The benchmarks of the ED-GRS are extremely ambitious.** Very few schools will be able to achieve all of them. Schools that demonstrate that they meet some of the benchmarks and are making significant, concrete, and measurable progress toward meeting others are strongly encouraged to apply**.** First-time completion of the ED-GRS application is always rigorous; but the data can be collected and analyzed annually, and the application can be used to chart progress and determine new goals and tasks. Many benchmarks for this program build upon participation in award programs, including Sustainable Jersey for Schools and Eco-Schools USA.

**School Green Team Requirements:** Schools must form a team which includes: a facilities manager, curriculum director, school business administrator, physical education director, school nurse, food services director, teachers, and students.

**Energy Requirements -** Schools must use a tool to measure and benchmark their energy consumption (e.g. Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager, or similar) and match [Portfolio Manager’s](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager) data format. All schools must provide their [EPA ENERGY STAR SCORE](https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings) within their application.

**Resources:** Consult the ED-GRS [Green Strides Resources Page and Webinar Series](http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/green-strides/resources.html) for standards, programs, and grants related to each Pillar or contact allison.mulch@njaudubon.org for local support with the application.

**How to Participate:**

**Step 1: Register School.** Complete the **School Registration Form** below and send it by email indicating intent to apply to allison.mulch@njaudubon.org.

**Step 2: Adopt a Resolution.**The school board must adopt a resolution authorizing the school’s participation in EDGRS and submission of the application. See the sample resolution below. ***Do not delay your application if waiting for a board meeting and resolution. This criterion has been newly implemented and will not prevent our committee from considering your application.***

**Step 3: Complete and Submit an ED-GRS Application.** Send the completed application along with the Board Resolution to allison.mulch@njaudubon.org by midnight of the **December 31 of the application year**.

**School Registration Form:**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Facebook page: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone Number/Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lead Applicant Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lead Applicant Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone Number/Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level**[ ] Early Learning Center[ ] Elementary (PK - 5 or 6)[ ] K - 8[ ] Middle (6 - 8 or 9)[ ] High (9 or 10 - 12) | **School Type**( ) Public( ) Private/Independent( ) Charter | **How would you describe your school?**( ) Urban( ) Suburban( ) Rural | **District Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Largest 50 Districtsin the nation? ( )Y ( )N |
| # FTE\* Enrolled:\_\_\_\_\_\_# Sch. Buildings:\_\_\_\_\_\_\*Full Time Equivalent |
| Does your school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households?( ) Yes ( ) No | % receiving FRPL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% limited English proficient\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% minority\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Graduation rate:\_\_\_\_\_Attendance rate: \_\_\_\_ |

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**Sample Resolution to Participate in the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools**

**Introduction:** The Board of Education (or Board of Trustees) recognizes that responsible environmental stewardship is an integral part of its mission in ensuring that schools are well run. The board strongly supports a sustainability program that fosters respect and responsibility for the preservation of our planet’s resources, health, and ecosystems. The sustainability program shall include conservation and sustainable planning, sustainable practices in operations and maintenance, and impact of sustainable practices on global climate change and the mitigation of global climate change. The board shall endeavor to implement green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present while not compromising the future. The board recognizes that sustainability through the adoption of green initiatives in all day-to-day district operations will only succeed with the cooperation and support of the board, the students, staff, and the community. The district shall endeavor to engage all members of the school community in all aspects of the sustainability program and conservation and green initiatives of the district.

The board directs the chief school administrator or his or her designee(s) and other key stakeholders to contribute to and oversee the district’s programs for conservation and green initiatives including but not limited to energy efficient practices, recycling, sustainable programs and business practices within the district, environmental assessments, green construction within school facilities, and education and training programs for students, staff, and the community.

The board will consider sustainability goals and objectives as part of the strategic planning process. Sustainability goals and objectives shall be reviewed and adjusted as part of the regular strategic planning process.

**Whereas**—The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education seeks to have \_\_\_\_(School Name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School for high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars described below, as measured by a wide variety of green benchmarks and practices to:

Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and cost;

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

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

**Whereas**—The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education and District Superintendent seek to support and work with school staff and administrators, students, and parents to complete actions in pursuit of this recognition.

**We hereby appoint** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be the school’s liaison to ED-GRS and we do hereby recognize \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School as the agent to carry out our commitment to building a sustainable school community.

**We agree to** complete and submit an ED-GRS application and support the schools in completing their actions.

Signature of Board Secretary Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**OR provide all three signatures below**

Signature of President of the Board of Education Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of District Superintendent Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Business Administrator Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_