

Louisiana Green Ribbon Schools Application 2024-2025

Background

Thank you for your interest in completing the Louisiana application for nomination to the 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, districts, and postsecondary institutions demonstrating progress in every area will receive the highest scores. To complete the application, it will help to assemble a team with expertise across these areas. You may also wish to consult the [Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub](#) for resources to progress in each Pillar.

Submission Process

Applications are due to environmentaleducation@la.gov by December 16 at 5 p.m. Only **electronic submissions** will be accepted. It is important to demonstrate concrete achievement using quantified measures when possible, as well as include supportive evidence such as photographs. Applicants will not be selected if they do not provide or provide a weak response to one of the elements within the Pillars. The application can be no more than 20 pages long (excluding photo attachments). The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will send nominations to the U.S. Department of Education by February 14. Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov if you have questions.



Cover Sheet

Nominee Information

General 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

Elementary

Middle

High

Non-Public

Public

Career and Technical Charter

Magnet

Community College

Two-Year

Four-Year

Rural

Urban

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:



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](#). 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 pillar narratives to write the summary.

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 demonstrates 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’s 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)



- Element: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation (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 (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)

Pillar II: 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 II: 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](#), 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)



- Element: [Integrated school environmental health program](#) 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)

Pillar II: 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)

Photos

Please submit up to 5 - 10 photos (with appropriate permissions) to illustrate your work in the three Pillars. The permission documentation should be submitted with the application. Each photo should be submitted as a separate file (gif, jpg, jpeg, png), named clearly, and accompanied by a separate document that provides a caption for each photo which describes what is happening in the photos, who is involved, where it took place, when it happened, and why it is significant.

The U.S. Department of Education prefers candid images of students' and teachers' actions related to the Pillars from the last three years. By sending these photos, you give LDOE and the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them in newsletters, social media, and/or websites.



Scoring Matrix

Below is the scoring rubric the Green Ribbon Schools Application Team will use to offer further guidance on completing the application. Additionally, please refer to the [Louisiana Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Overview PDF](#) for the application timeline, including LDOE-hosted webinars to support interested early learning centers, schools, districts, and/or postsecondary institutions in the application process.

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs	Indicate whether demonstrating progress (Y/N)	Score
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	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		
Element: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		
Element: Reduced solid and hazardous waste production through increased recycling and composting, reduced consumption, and improved management, reduction, or elimination of hazardous waste	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10



Evidence:		
Element: Expanded use of alternative transportation through active promotion of locally available, energy-efficient options and implementation of alternative transportation supportive projects and policies	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		
Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff	Indicate whether demonstrating progress (Y/N)	Score
Element: High standards of Whole School, Whole Community, and Whole Child Health , including nutrition and outdoor physical activity; health, counseling, and psychological services for both students and staff; and family and community involvement	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		
Element: Integrated school environmental health program 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	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10



Evidence:

Pillar III: Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education	Indicate whether demonstrating progress (Y/N)	Score
Element: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		
Element: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content knowledge and thinking skills to prepare graduates for the 21 st -century technology-driven economy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		
Element: Development of civic engagement knowledge and skills and students' application of such knowledge and skills to address sustainability issues in their community	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	____/10
Evidence:		



Photos	Indicate whether demonstrating progress (Y/N)	Score
<p>Element: 5 - 10 photos (with appropriate permissions) to illustrate work in all three Pillars. Each photo is submitted as an individual file and has a caption that describes what is happening in the photos, who is involved, where it took place, when it happened, and why it is significant.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>____/10</p>