

Apply today for the 2023-24 Green Ribbon Schools Recognition Program!



Applications due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 22, 2023

Overview

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) program is a public engagement initiative structured as a federal recognition award for whole school sustainability. ED-GRS honors schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions' cost-saving, health-promoting, and performance-enhancing sustainability practices, in order to celebrate these schools and bring more attention to their work. The Illinois State Board of Education, in partnership with the Illinois Green Alliance, hosts a state-level awards process to select candidates who will go on to represent Illinois in the national awards competition.

Award Criteria:

Illinois applicants must show progress in each of the following:

- 1 Reducing environmental impacts
- 2 Improving health and wellness
- 3 Offering effective environmental and sustainability education

Applicants will draft and submit an application describing their progress in each of the above areas and submit that application by December 22, 2023, to greenribbon@isbe.net.

Scan for application



Resources:

- ISBE [informational webinar](#) on Wednesday, September 26, will offer insights into the awards process and explain how school communities can engage with ISBE's Green Ribbon Schools program.
- The Green Strides School [Sustainability Resource Hub](#) is a website that is available for schools to access free resources on healthy, safe, sustainable, 21st-century learning environments and environmental sustainability education.
- Enhance your teaching by including Illinois' natural resources in your lessons. The [ENTICE program](#) from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) can show you how! Review scheduled workshops and descriptions here to select a session and register.
- IDNR's [Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program](#) supports the development or enhancement of wildlife habitat, such as pollinator gardens and other projects, on school grounds or other public places. Schools can apply for grants to purchase the tools and materials.
- IDNR offers free copies of its [publications](#) to all teachers at ISBE- recognized schools.
- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has partnered with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's [Office for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education](#) to create new science curricula for fifth and sixth grade educators. The new units are free and available online to teachers and parents.
- The Illinois EPA also has [environmental educational materials](#) available for download.

Timeline:

*Subject to change

