

National Green Ribbon Schools Award

The United States Department of Education (USED) supports the Green Ribbon Schools initiative modeled after the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. The Green Ribbon Schools award will recognize exemplary achievement in environmental impact, wellness and environmental education.

USED will recognize schools and districts that have the least negative impact on the environment, the most positive impact on the health of students and staff, and the most effective preparation of students for careers and citizenship in the 21st century.

The Florida Department of Education is pleased to announce that Florida will participate for the third year in the Green Ribbon Schools program. We are eager for your schools and districts to apply for a Green Ribbon Schools and/or district award by submitting an application for this important national recognition. Each state will be allowed to nominate up to four schools and one school district for the 2013-14 national award.

The selection process will be based on demonstrated progress toward the goals of each of the three USED Green Ribbon School Pillars below:

- 1) Pillar One: the school and/or district have a net-zero environmental impact.
- 2) Pillar Two: the school and/or district environment has a net positive impact on the health and performance of students and staff.
- 3) Pillar Three: 100 percent of the school's and/or district's students are environmentally and sustainability literate.

Please keep in mind that these are ambitious goals, and it is unlikely that any school or district will have achieved all three goals. However, it is important for schools and districts to demonstrate concrete accomplishments, using quantified measures wherever possible. Schools and districts that have participated in the annual Florida Green School Awards program, or similar initiatives, are prime candidates prepared to submit the USED Green Ribbon Schools application.

Please direct your district contact and schools to apply for this honor online at <http://www.floridagreenschoolnetwork.org/green-school-award/green-ribbon-schools-program/>.

The application may be submitted beginning October 1, 2013, and will be open for submission until November 29, 2013. For further information about the Green Ribbon Schools Award, click <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>.

If you have any questions about this award, please feel free to contact Romina Sola, Florida Green School network coordinator, at 239-338-8758 or via email at Romina.Sola@dep.state.fl.us, or Penny Taylor, Office of Healthy Schools, at 850-245-9522 or via email at Penny.Taylor@fldoe.org.