



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: September 14, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2018-2019 Green Ribbon Schools**

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce that the Commonwealth will participate for the seventh year in the United States Department of Education's (USED) Green Ribbon Schools (GRS) award program. The GRS award program is open to both public and private schools and public school divisions. The program is intended to recognize schools and school divisions that are: 1) reducing environmental impact and costs; 2) improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and 3) providing effective environmental and sustainability education based on sound science and civics.

The applications are intended to focus on measurable and verifiable results wherever possible, and Virginia's applications, though based on the national criteria, provide ample opportunities for schools and school divisions in the Commonwealth to highlight Virginia-specific emphases and initiatives. Over the last six years, Virginia has had a total of eleven public and private schools and four school divisions recognized by the GRS national selection committee as achieving this prestigious award.

In order to proceed in applying for the USED Green Ribbon Schools award program, a nonbinding GRS Intent-to-Submit form included in the state application packet should be submitted electronically by October 26, 2018, to the Virginia Department of Education. The next step is to complete and electronically submit by December 7, 2018, either the school application or the school division application to the state review committee. An expert panel will carefully review all GRS applications, and all state applicants will be notified as to their status on or before January 31, 2019.

Virginia will recognize up to five schools or districts as awardees of the Virginia GRS recognition. The awardees applications will be forward to USED; upon approval of the USED

GRS recognition program, these applications to be reviewed by a national selection committee. Of Virginia's five state nominees for 2017-2018, potentially all may be designated as national GRS awardees. The new cohort of Virginia GRS recipients will be invited to be recognized by the Virginia Board of Education in Richmond in October, 2019 and at a national level awards ceremony in Washington D.C. in September, 2019.

Additional information about the USED Green Ribbon Schools program can be found on the Virginia Department of Education [Green Ribbon Schools](#) Web site. The GRS applications must be completed and received electronically in .pdf format by the Virginia Department of Education by Monday, December 7, 2018, no later than 4 p.m. For additional information, please contact Anne Petersen, Science Coordinator, Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, by e-mail at anne.petersen@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2676.

JFL/AP/pb

Attachment

- A. 2018-2019 Virginia Green Ribbon School Application (Word)
- B. 2018-2019 Virginia Green Ribbon School Division Application (Word)