



#261-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #261-21**

DATE: September 10, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2021-2022 Green Ribbon Schools**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce that the Commonwealth will participate for the tenth 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 nine years, Virginia has had a total of thirteen public and private schools and seven school divisions recognized by the GRS national selection committee as achieving this prestigious award.

Completed electronic applications for Virginia Green Ribbon Schools are due to the VDOE on **December 10, 2021 at 5 p.m.** An expert panel will carefully review all GRS applications, and all state applicants will be notified as to their status on or before February 1, 2022.

Virginia will recognize up to five schools or divisions 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 are to be reviewed by a national selection committee. All five of the Virginia state nominees for 2021-2022 potentially could 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 2022, and at a national level awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 2022.

For more information

Additional information about the USED Green Ribbon Schools program can be found on the Virginia Department of Education [Green Ribbon Schools](#) website. The GRS applications must be completed and received electronically in Word format by the Virginia Department of Education by Monday, December 10, 2021, no later than 5 p.m. For additional information, please contact Dr. Anne Petersen, Science Coordinator, Office of STEM and Innovation, by email at Anne.Petersen@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2676.

JFL/AP/pf

- A. Attachment: [Virginia Green Ribbon Schools Application](#) (DOCX)
- B. Attachment: [Virginia Green Ribbon Schools FAQ](#) (DOCX)