



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 5, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS)
Application

Michigan's application for the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools \(ED-GRS\)](#) recognition program is now open. The aim of [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools \(ED-GRS\)](#) is to inspire education institutions to strive for 21st century excellence by highlighting promising practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes those entities that:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs;
- Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
- Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

This program supports Goal 2 of the Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan: Implement, with strong district and building leadership, high-quality instruction in every classroom through a highly coherent, child-centered instructional model where students meet their self-determined academic and personal goals to their highest potential.

Combined progress in all three of the areas listed above, known as Pillars, serves as the basis for recognition. ED-GRS aligns with the department's cross-cutting goals for education, including improving student, staff, and facility performance and increasing efficiency at federal, state, and local levels. It is part of a U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and communicate practices that result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness.

More information and the application can be found on the [Michigan ED-GRS website](#).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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