



#209-22

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #209-22

DATE: September 9, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **2022-2023 Green Ribbon Schools**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will participate 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.

While based on the national criteria, schools and school divisions in the Commonwealth have the opportunity to highlight Virginia specific initiatives in the application for a GRS award. Applications are intended to focus on measurable and verifiable results wherever possible.

Virginia will recognize up to five schools or divisions as awardees of the Virginia GRS recognition. Since 2012, Virginia has had a total of twenty-one national awardees of this prestigious award.

Completed electronic applications for Virginia GRS are due to the VDOE on December 9, 2022, 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, 2023.

The awardees' applications will be forwarded to USED; upon approval of the USED GRS recognition program, these applications are to be reviewed by a national selection committee. All Virginia GRS awardees for 2022-2023 potentially could be designated as national GRS awardees.

The new cohort of Virginia GRS recipients will be recognized by the Virginia Board of Education in Richmond in October 2023, and at a national level awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 2023.

The GRS applications must be completed and received electronically in Word format by the VDOE by Friday, December 9, 2022, no later than 5 p.m.

For more information

Additional information about the USED Green Ribbon Schools program can be found on the VDOE [Virginia Green Ribbon Schools](#) website.

For additional information, please contact Gregory MacDougall, Science Specialist, Office of STEM and Innovation, by email at Gregory.Macdougall@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-6418.

JB/GM

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