



Kansas Green Ribbon Schools Overview

Introduction: The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools award aims to inspire schools, districts and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to strive for 21st century excellence, by highlighting exemplary practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs that:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs
- Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff
- Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways

Application Process: Application for the Green Ribbon recognition is a two-step process. The first step is to complete and submit the online form by no later than close of business on **January 15, 2019:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019KSGRS>

Your application will be reviewed by a state team and should your school be selected as a state nominee, you'll be asked to complete the second step of the process by providing additional information for the nominee package that will be forwarded to the US Department of Education (ED).

Each state may submit up to four nominees to the U.S. Department of Education. Upon review, U.S. Department of Education will then select the schools meriting recognition as US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. (More information including [Green Ribbon Schools Criteria](#), [resources, standards and programs](#) and [answers to frequently asked questions](#).)

The Kansas State Department of Education sponsors the Kansas Green Ribbon Schools program and in partnership with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education. For your convenience, we have developed an application workbook which includes and resources/support materials, found at: <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-ribbon-schools>.

Timeline for Application, Review, National Submission and Awards:

Activity	Date
Call for Applications *Schools should begin data collection for application	September 2018
Applications from Schools	Due Jan. 15, 2019
Kansas Review Team Assembled to Review Applications (KSDE, KACEE/KS Green Schools Advisors, educators, natural resource/sustainability professionals, environmental or sustainability business and industry)	Jan. 15 – 30, 2019
Recommendations sent to US Department of Education	By February 2019
Announcement of Green Ribbon School Awards	Earth Day 2019

Tips for Applying:

- Schools should ***begin reviewing application materials and collecting data*** for the three pillar areas as soon as possible.
- There are several past Green Ribbon nomination packages available at: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html>. All past Green Ribbon schools and districts will have their nomination packages available for you to review and provide you with an indicator of the amount and type of documentation required.
- The application must be completed online, however, you cannot save data and come back later to complete your application. To facilitate this process, please ***use the Kansas Green Ribbon Schools Workbook and compile your data*** in this word document prior to going online to submit. The workbook may be found at: <http://www.kansasgreenschools.org/kansas-green-ribbon-schools>

Review Criteria:

Each nomination will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

PILLAR THREE: Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy and human systems (Questions 1-6) 	20 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content knowledge and thinking skills to prepare graduates for the 21st century technology-driven economy (Questions 2 &3) 	10 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of civic engagement knowledge and skills, and students' application of these to address sustainability and environmental issues in their community (Questions 4 &5) 	10 points
PILLAR TWO: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An integrated school environmental health program (Questions 1-3) 	13 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High standards of nutrition, fitness, and quantity of quality outdoor time (Questions 1-2) 	12 points
PILLAR ONE: Reduce environmental impact and costs	
Energy Efficiency and Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Building (Questions 1-3)	10 points
Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Ground (Questions 1-3)	10 points
Reduced waste production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste • Hazardous waste (Questions 1-3)	5 points
Use of alternative transportation to, during, and from school (Questions 1-3)	5 points
CROSS-CUTTING QUESTION: Participation in Green School Programs and/or Awards for Environmental and Sustainability Efforts (<i>May be evidenced throughout the application</i>) (Question 1)	5 points
TOTAL POINTS	100

For questions, please contact the Kansas State Department of Education Science Coordinator, Lizette Burks at: lburks@ksde.org or the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, Laura Downey at ldowney@kacee.org