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**Background**

Thank you for your interest in completing the New Jersey application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS), District Sustainability Award, or Postsecondary Sustainability Award. ED-GRS recognizes schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions taking a comprehensive approach to sustainability, incorporating environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts. You must show progress in each of the following Pillars:

Pillar I: Reducing environmental impact and costs;

Pillar II: Improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and

Pillar III: Offering effective environmental and sustainability education.

Schools demonstrating progress in every area will receive highest scores. It may help to assemble a team with expertise across these areas to complete the application. You may also consult [Green Strides](http://www.greenstrides.org) for programs related to each Pillar.

Applications must be submitted via email to [allison.mulch@njaudubon.org](mailto:allison.mulch@njaudubon.org) by December 18, 2020. The New Jersey Department of Education will send nominations to the U.S. Department of Education by February 2021. Please contact Bernard E. Piaia, Jr., Director, Office of School Facilities Projects Division of Finance New Jersey Department of Education or Allison Mulch, Project Director School Sustainability, NJ Audubon if you have questions.

**District and School Contact and Other Information**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Facebook page: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone Number/Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lead Applicant Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lead Applicant Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone Number/Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Level**  [ ] Early Learning Center  [ ] Elementary (PK - 5 or 6)  [ ] K - 8  [ ] Middle (6 - 8 or 9)  [ ] High (9 or 10 - 12) | **School Type**  ( ) Public  ( ) Private/Independent  ( ) Charter | **How would you describe your school?**  ( ) Urban  ( ) Suburban  ( ) Rural | **District Name**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Largest 50 Districts  in the nation? ( )Y ( )N |
| # FTE\* Enrolled:\_\_\_\_\_\_  # Sch. Buildings:\_\_\_\_\_\_  \*Full Time Equivalent |
| Does your school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households?  ( ) Yes ( ) No | % receiving FRPL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  % limited English proficient\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  % minority\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | Graduation rate:\_\_\_\_\_  Attendance rate: \_\_\_\_ |

**Documentation of Sustainability Achievement**

**Narrative for Pillar I: Your Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs**

Use 1-4 pages to describe how your school is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and using alternative transportation. Identify your energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically and educationally beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes. Use supporting data and reference participation in pertinent benchmarking programs to demonstrate progress where possible.

**Narrative for Pillar 2: Your Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff**

Use 1-4 pages to describe how your school improves the health and wellness of students and staff by integrating an environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss cleaning and maintenance; mold and moisture; chemical and environmental contaminants; ventilation; pests and pesticide, as well as nutrition and outdoors physical activity. Other components you may include are health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, sun safety, staff health promotion, and family and community involvement. Incorporate metrics and include program participation where possible.

**Narrative for Pillar 3: Your Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

Use 1-4 pages to describe how your school ensures effective environmental and sustainability education throughout the curriculum. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills, and teach all subjects in context. You should discuss how your school develops and applies civic knowledge and skills to environmental and sustainability education. All STEM and civics work should be described as it relates to environmental and sustainability learning. Detail any environmental or sustainability literacy standards, show how these concepts are integrated into assessments, and describe environmental and sustainability literacy professional development. Include co-curricular opportunities such as field trips, study abroad, clubs, and service learning. This section should describe hands-on, place-based, project-based, authentic learning across the curriculum, not limited to one subject, such as science courses.

**Summary Narrative: An Overview of Your Work Encompassing All Three Pillars**

Use 2-3 pages to provide a summary narrative describing your school’s efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health and wellness; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. This overarching summary should highlight the best of your work in every ED-GRS Pillar and Element. You view examples of summary narratives in past [Highlights Reports](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html). The summary that you submit should be what you would like to see appear in a future Highlights Report, if your institution is selected. Be sure to include concrete sustainability achievements, supporting data, unique partnerships, program participation, awards, and certifications. It may be helpful to pull from your previous three narratives to write the summary.

**Photos**

Please submit 5-10 photographs with brief descriptions including who, what, when, and where. Photos should be action shots, not posed. By sending these photos, you are giving the NJ Department of Education, NJ Audubon and the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them in our newsletter and social media.