



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 6, 2017

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and Principals:

**CALIFORNIA GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS RECOGNITION PROGRAM  
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2017–18**

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce application availability for the fifth cycle of our California Green Ribbon Schools (CA-GRS) recognition program. The purpose of this program is to honor excellence in whole-school sustainability while spotlighting replicable best practices.

Green schools provide a foundation for every student to receive a world-class education in an environment that supports the mind, body, and spirit. They facilitate environmental stewardship and provide students with high-quality learning environments that support the whole child in being healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. The impact from schools like these includes lower utility consumption and costs, reduced student illness and absenteeism, and improved academic outcomes—especially in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, as students build their environmental literacy.

Since I announced the CA-GRS recognition in 2014, the CDE has recognized 52 public schools and 16 school districts across the state for helping California to lead the way in whole-school sustainability. Join these leaders by pursuing recognition for your school or district this school year.

Eligible award recipients include school districts, county offices of education, K–12 public and private schools, and early education centers. Interested parties may request an electronic application and review program information on our Green Ribbon Schools Award Program Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/fa/sf/greenribbonprog.asp>. While CA-GRS awards are not limited in number, five CA-GRS honorees will receive my nomination for additional recognition by the Secretary of Education as U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools and District Sustainability Award winners.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Lesley Taylor, Field Representative in the School Facilities and Transportation Services Division, by phone at 916-322-0310 or by e-mail at [greenribbonschools@cde.ca.gov](mailto:greenribbonschools@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

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