TO: Superintendents, Charter School and Private School Leaders  
FROM: New Jersey Department of Education  
RE: 2015 Green Ribbon Schools Program Announcement

The New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to announce that New Jersey will participate in the 2014-2015 federal Green Ribbon Schools Program and invites all school districts and both public and private schools to apply for this national recognition.

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) launched the annual award in 2011 to recognize the highest performing green schools in the nation. This award recognizes exemplary achievement in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving health and wellness; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. The award also serves as a clearinghouse of resources that help to advance these complementary aims. For more information on Green Ribbon Schools, please visit http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools.

The recognition award is considered the first comprehensive federal program addressing the environmental impact, health and education of our schools and is a major milestone in the Green Schools Movement. The award lays out a thoughtful vision for schools and raises the profile of green schools and the states whose policies encourage them.

New Jersey is permitted to nominate up to four schools and one school district to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for consideration. The USDE, in turn, will select the national award winners.

Schools and districts that are considering applying should access the following link of the Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC) to obtain information concerning the Green Ribbon Schools program in New Jersey, and to download the application and supporting documents: New Jersey Green Ribbon Schools.

The timeline for submission of materials to the EIRC contact is included at the above link. A letter of intent to participate must be submitted by November 21, 2014 and a completed application must be submitted by December 19, 2014.

The winning schools and district will be announced on April 22, 2015 and recognized at a national ceremony in July 2015. The nominated New Jersey schools and school district will be recognized at a state ceremony in the spring of 2015, and will be asked to present a summary of their achievements.

Please contact Bernard Piaia, Director, Office of School Facilities, at (609) 984-5351 or Len Colner at (609) 943-5926 with any questions on this issue.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
   David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner  
   Senior Staff  
   Executive County Superintendents  
   Executive County Business Official  
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
   Garden State Coalition of Schools  
   NJLEE Group