Date: October 31, 2019
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Private School Administrators
Route To: Principals, Science Teachers, Facilities Directors
From: Bernard E. Piaia, Jr., Director
Office of School Facility Projects
Deadline: November 15 to submit letter of intent; December 13 to submit application

2020 Green Ribbon Schools Program Announcement

The New Jersey Department of Education is pleased to announce that New Jersey will participate in the 2019-20 United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) program and invites all school districts and both public and private schools to apply for this national recognition.

The U.S. Department of Education launched the annual award in 2011 to recognize the highest performing green schools in the nation. The award acknowledges exemplary achievement by schools 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 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, visit the ED-GRS website.

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

New Jersey, which has participated since the program began, is permitted to nominate up to five applicants to the ED-GRS for consideration. New Jersey convenes a green schools nominating committee that selects the most outstanding applicants. The ED-GRS, in turn, will select the national award winners.

Potential applicants should access the New Jersey Audubon’s Green Ribbon Schools webpage to obtain information concerning the Green Ribbon Schools program in New Jersey and to download the application and supporting documents.

The website provides the timeline for submission of materials to the NJ Audubon: A letter of intent to participate should be submitted by November 15, 2019, and a completed application must be submitted by December 13, 2019.

The winning schools and district will be announced in spring 2020 and honored at a national ceremony in early fall 2020. The nominated New Jersey applicants will be recognized at a state ceremony in March of 2020 and will be asked to present a summary of their achievements at the ceremony.

Contact Information
Please contact Bernard E. Piaia, Jr., Director of the NJDOE’s Office of School Facility Projects, at (609) 376-3701 or Leonard Colner, also of the Office of School Facilities, at (609) 376-3672 with any questions about the program.