



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Kay Ivey
President

**TODAY ALABAMA SCHOOL AND DISTRICT NAMED RECIPIENTS OF
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS HONORS**

Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs, Improving Wellness, Offering Effective Sustainability Education

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – The U.S. Department of Education today announced the 2023 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees.

Tracie West
District II
President Pro Tem

Alabama’s *Shades Mountain Elementary School* (Hoover) was named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, and the *Gulf Shores City Schools System* was honored as a District Sustainability Awardee.

Stephanie Bell
District III

Across the country, only 26 schools, 11 districts, and four postsecondary institutions were honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

“I congratulate these Alabama schools as they have excelled in their ability to be innovative, creative, and ecologically friendly. In a time when excess carbon and emissions have had negative impacts on our environment, these Alabama schools have proven there are practical, sustainable measures that can be employed to reduce environmental impact, lower utility costs, and most importantly, improve health and wellness,” State Superintendent Eric Mackey said. “Our hope is that in years to come, other schools will use these Green Ribbon schools as a model for finding ways to create a healthier environment and reduce our carbon footprint throughout the state.”

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

This year’s national honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 18 states.

Marie Manning
District VI

“The challenges posed both by the pandemic and by climate change have driven home the importance of modernizing school facilities, embracing sustainability, prioritizing health and wellness, and improving learning conditions for students, especially in underserved communities,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “Our 2023 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools have raised the bar for sustainable practices, energy efficiency, health and wellness, and hands-on learning experiences that enhance students’ problem-solving skills and foster a sense of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. I want to congratulate the educators, school leaders, students, families, and advocates engaged in this work for showing the nation that any school in any community can strive to be a green school, and in doing so, empower the next generation to build a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable nation.”

Belinda McRae
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII
Vice President

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Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

2023 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS ANNOUNCED TODAY

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, as well as their nomination packages, can be found [here for nomination packages](#). A report with highlights on the 41 honorees can be found [here for 41 honorees report](#). Eligibility, including the “Three Pillars” of the award, can be found [here for Three Pillars information](#). More information on the federal recognition award is [here for more recognition information](#). Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found [here for award resource information](#). *(Please note that the honoree links above will go live at 1 p.m. ET Thursday.)*

Following is the list of 2023 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees:

- AL – Hoover – **Shades Mountain Elementary School**, Category: School.
- AL – Gulf Shores – **Gulf Shores City Schools**, Category: District.
- CA – Carlsbad – **Jefferson Elementary School**, Category: School.
- CA – Lake Forest – **Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary School**, Category: School.
- CA – Redwood City – **Redwood High School**, Category: School.
- CA – San Jose – **Bellarmino College Preparatory**, Category: School.
- CA – Moreno Valley – **Moreno Valley Unified School District**, Category: District.
- CT – Southport – **Mill Hill Elementary School**, Category: School.
- DC – Washington – **Frances L. Cardozo Education Campus**, Category: School.
- DC – Washington – **Georgetown University**, Category: Postsecondary Institution.
- FL – Orlando – **Arbor Ridge K8 School**, Category: School.
- FL – Orlando – **Stone Lakes Elementary School**, Category: School.
- FL – Orlando – **Oak Ridge High School**, Category: School.
- FL – Miami – **Palmer Trinity School**, Category: School.
- IL – Mount Prospect – **Prairie Trails School**, Category: Early Learning.
- IL – Algonquin – **Huntley Community School District 158**, Category: District.
- IN – Carmel – **Carmel Clay Schools**, Category: District.
- IN – Lafayette – **Purdue University**, Category: Postsecondary Institution.
- IA – Iowa City – **Iowa City Community School District**, Category: District.
- KY – Fayetteville – **Cardinal Valley Elementary**, Category: School.
- KY – Danville – **Mary G. Hogsett Primary School**, Category: School.
- LA – Baton Rouge – **Park Forest Elementary Sciences & Arts Magnet School**, Category: School.
- MD – Windsor Mill – **Watershed Public Charter School**, Category: School.
- MD – Centreville – **Queen Anne’s County Public Schools**, Category: District.
- MA – Boston – **Boston Public Schools**, Category: District.
- MO – St. Louis – **Patrick Henry Downtown Academy**, Category: School.
- PA – Chadds Ford – **Hillendale Elementary School**, Category: School.
- PA – Coal Center – **California Area School District**, Category: District.
- PA – West Chester – **West Chester University**, Category: Postsecondary Institution.
- RI – Providence – **East Providence High School**, Category: School.
- RI – Jamestown – **Jamestown School Department**, Category: District.
- VA – Leesburg – **Little Tree Huggers Preschool**, Category: Early Learning.
- VA – Woodbridge – **Freedom High School**, Category: School.
- WA – Gig Harbor – **Pioneer Elementary School**, Category: School.
- WA – Puyallup – **Chief Leschi Schools**, Category: District.
- WI – Milwaukee – **Browning Elementary School**, Category: School.
- WI – Eagle – **Eagleview Elementary Charter School**, Category: School.
- WI – Fitchburg – **Forest Edge Elementary School**, Category: School.
- WI – Milwaukee – **Tamarack Waldorf School**, Category: School.
- WI – De Pere – **Unified School District of De Pere**, Category: District.
- WI – Platteville – **University of Wisconsin Platteville**, Category: Postsecondary Institution.

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