



Report Card Information

GOAL

To recognize and celebrate public and private schools across western and central Pennsylvania that have taken strides to create a Green and Healthy learning environment for their school community. This program will help schools begin the process of striving toward recognition in the state's Green Ribbon Schools Program.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all public and private K-12 schools and school districts in Pennsylvania.

TIMELINE

Applications will be accepted on a rolling admission basis until the deadline on April 22 (Earth Day). A celebration luncheon will then be held mid-May to honor all the awardees.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Everyone partaking in one or more of the HSRP activities will be distinguished as a participant. There are three levels of honors recognition beyond participation:

Emerging School:

Completion of at least 15 activities listed on the report card.

Honor Roll:

Completion of at least 30 activities listed on the report card.

High Honor Roll

Completion of at least 50 activities listed on the report card.

High Honor Roll with Distinction:

Completion of at least 75 activities listed on the report card.

The designation each school receives is based on the number of activities completed in each of the five categories listed below:

- School Sustainability (six subcategories)
- School Grounds
- Community Engagement
- Curriculum Integration
- Administration (four subcategories)

Schools must be ready to demonstrate evidence that the activity has or will be completed prior to the April 22nd deadline. All participants will be invited to attend the recognition luncheon to be scheduled for mid-May in Pittsburgh. Each school will receive a Healthy School Recognition Program certificate and decal to display in their school. Healthy Schools PA will keep a record of each school's report card, so that each year the school may work toward completion of additional activities and perhaps reach a higher designation.

The application shall include a cover sheet signed by the principal, the completed report card, a summary of the Green and Healthy School activities (not to exceed four pages) and photo files. Healthy Schools PA may also request a walk-through or phone call with the school. These photos will be used for public relations purposes in various media for the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. Students depicted must have signed releases.



Category 1: School Sustainability

AIR QUALITY

- Track ambient air quality and develop plan when outdoor air is potentially harmful to occupants
- Implement building-wide indoor air quality management plan
- Make sure every occupied space has supply of outdoor air
- Test for radon (and remediate)
- Ensure outdoor air intakes are clear of obstructions, debris, etc.
- Resolve problems with pollutant sources near outdoor air intakes
- Replace filters per maintenance schedule
- Confirm mechanical rooms & air-mixing chambers are free of trash, chemical products, supplies, etc.
- Ensure air dampers are partially open to provide some outdoor air
- Check that contaminated zones are under negative pressure when exhaust fans are running
- Ensure air supply is functioning when students are present
- Ensure that supply and return vents are open and unblocked
- Move all barriers that could block movement of air in rooms
- Purchase third-party certified green cleaning products
- Prohibit air fresheners and other fragrances in classroom
- Ensure there is no mold present in the building

WATER

- Complete water assessment to learn where water comes from
- Test quality of drinking water, including presence of lead
- Conduct indoor water audit (gallons used, faucet flow, etc.)

WASTE & RECYCLING

- Compost food and organic waste
- Implement waste-free lunch program
- Recycling program includes two or more of:
 - Office Paper
 - Plastic
 - Glass
 - Metal
 - Cans
 - Printer Cartridges
 - Newspapers / Magazines
 - Cell phones
 - Cardboard
 - Compact Discs
 - Video Discs
- Implement Zero-Waste program for school sponsored events

ENERGY

- Conduct building energy audit
- Implement a school-energy saving program
- Use alternative energy, renewable fuels, or specialized energy-efficient technology
- Empower students and staff to lower energy consumption
- Convert lights to CFLs or LEDs
- Establish an energy efficient purchasing policy
- Start an energy efficiency program

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Category 1: School Sustainability (cont.)

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- Purchase locally produced food items from vendor or farmer
- Offer salad bar daily
- Maintain an onsite garden
- Provide incentive for students to bring reusable water bottles
- Remove vending machines
- Implement policy to buy recycled, biodegradable, or less toxic school supplies
- Develop and enforce an integrated pest management policy that includes: Explore alternative pest management methods, Identify least toxic, target-specific chemicals, preferably as baits and granules, Use spot treatment and only treat obviously infested areas
- Test for presence of PCBs in caulk and light fixtures
- Test for presence of lead in paint, dust, soil
- Ensure vending machines contain only USDA Smart Snack options

TRANSPORTATION

- Complete a transportation assessment
- Post "no-idling" signage that is visible to parents and bus drivers
- Provide literature to parents about harms of diesel and car exhaust
- Award preferential parking for carpooling vehicles
- Utilize a bus company that has retrofitted their buses or uses propane, or uses electricity
- Create and promote safe and low exposure walking and biking routes

Category 2: School Grounds

ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

- Prohibit pesticide use on school grounds (preferred)
- Install a rain garden
- Replace portable gas cans with low emission cans
- Store chemical products and supplies in sealed, clearly-labeled containers
- Properly dispose of chemicals, chemical containing wastes and containers
- Check ground-level intakes for pollutant sources (i.e. parking lots, loading docks, bus idling located near intakes)
- Use asphalt rather than coal tar when resurfacing parking lots
- Safely apply pesticides when occupants are not present
- Ensure that staff and students are notified of upcoming pesticide application through posted notices and/or letters
- Portable Classrooms—keep foundation skirt several inches above grade to prevent water wicking and water damage

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Category 3: Curriculum Integration

CURRICULUM

- Green School goals are developed and/or implemented in at least one grade level
- Green School activities are planned by one or more teachers
- Offer at least one teaching unit on an alternative energy or an environmental issue facing the state
- Green School projects, such as air quality monitoring, are used to engage students and integrate sustainability principles into existing classroom curriculum
- Schools hosts an environmental or energy speaker, event, or field trip
- Establish a student organization that participates in environmental activities and issues
- Integrate Pennsylvania's Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability (STEELS) Standards into classroom instruction
- Visit internet sites that educate about the environment and support endangered ecosystems
- Maintain a natural surface playing area, rather than artificial turf

Category 4: Community Engagement

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Establish or maintain a community natural area or garden
- Include parents and community members on advancing the school's green initiatives (e.g. town meeting or newsletter)
- School engages with local community members on environmental issues through letter writing or attending public hearings, etc.

Category 5: Administration

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teachers voluntarily attend professional development on green school topics
- Courses related to Green School initiatives are accepted as legitimate topics for professional development
- Some school-wide training exists on topics supporting Green School projects
- Planning time to enhance Green School goals is provided to teachers
- Trainings to prepare teachers for Green School projects and strategies are provided and coordinated at the whole school level

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Category 5: Administration (cont.)

SHARED SUCCESS & LESSONS LEARNED

- School's efforts to become green are known within the school
- Signage and other educational displays make the green elements and practices of the school clear to visitors as well as students and staff
- Green Projects and initiatives can be found on the school website
- Results of the school's green projects and initiatives are published and shared at local community, state, and/or national level (e.g. documents showing how school has mentored other schools or received help, or student/faculty presentations at conferences)

CATEGORY PLANNING

- School improvement plan identifies "green" strengths and weaknesses
- School planning documents identify measurable and realistic Green School objectives
- School and/or district level plans address Green School goals as a core component
- Future plan exists (and is regularly updated) for implementing Green School activities

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE

- School has an established Green and Healthy School team or ambassador
- School has adopted EPA's Tools for Schools Program
- School has one environmental focused event annually
- School leads teachers and staff in efforts to green school operations
- School mission or philosophy statement highlights the value of a Green School culture
- Fundraising occurs in the school for green projects and initiatives
- School participates in the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools Program

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Next Step:

Submit the report card, cover letter, and other other related documents online by visiting: <https://healthyschoolspa.org/why-healthy-schools/recognition-program>.

Questions? Call (412) 404-2872



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