



New York State Board of Regents
Dr. John B. King, Jr.
Commissioner of Education
The State Education Department
The University of the State of New York / Albany, NY 12234



Office of Communications / (518) 474-1201

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For More Information, Contact:
Tom Dunn, Jonathan Burman or Jane Briggs
(518) 474-1201
www.nysed.gov

Three New York State Schools Named Among First-Ever U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

*78 Winning Schools in 29 States and D.C. Represent a Diverse Portfolio, Includes 66 Public and 12
Private Schools in Urban and Rural Communities*

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, together with White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, announced that Hampton Bays Middle School, Sleepy Hollow Middle School, and Bethlehem Central Middle School are among 78 schools named U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. New York State is among 29 states and D.C. with schools receiving the first-ever awards.

"Science and environmental education play a central role in providing children with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the jobs of the future," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate compelling examples of the ways schools can expand their coursework while also helping children build real world skill sets, cut school costs, and provide healthy learning environments."

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is a federal recognition program that opened in September 2011. Honored schools exercise a comprehensive approach to creating "green" environments through reducing environmental impact, promoting health, and ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education to prepare students with the 21st century skills and sustainability concepts needed in the growing global economy.

"Schools that take a green approach cut costs on their utility bills, foster healthy and productive classrooms, and prepare students to thrive in the 21st century economy," said Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "These Green Ribbon School award winners are taking outstanding steps to educate tomorrow's environmental leaders, and demonstrating how sustainability and environmental awareness make sense for the health of our students and our country."

The 78 awarded schools were named winners from among nearly 100 nominees submitted by 30 state education agencies, the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Education. More than 350 schools completed applications to their state education agencies. Among the [list of winners](#) are 66 public schools including 8 charters, and 12 private schools composed of 43 elementary, 31 middle and 26 high schools with around 50 percent representing high poverty schools.

"These Green Ribbon Schools are giving students and educators what they need to maximize learning and minimize risks like asthma and other respiratory illnesses, ensuring that no child is burdened by pollution in or around their school," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Today's winners are protecting our children's health and opening up environmental education opportunities for students. The

EPA is proud to help recognize the Green Ribbon award winners and will continue working to improve the environment of our nation's schools and helping prepare students to succeed in the emerging green economy."

The U.S. Department of Education's "Green Ribbons" are one-year recognition awards. Next year's competition will open in summer 2012. State agencies are encouraged to send their intents to submit nominees by June 15, 2012 via email to green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov.

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