

# News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

## Three nominated for 2016 Green Ribbon Award

*Nominees make strides on reducing environmental impact and costs, improving health and wellness, and providing effective environmental education*

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers nominated two public schools and one public school district to be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program.

The schools nominated for the award are **Glen Hills Middle School**, Glendale-River Hills School District, and **West Middleton Elementary School**, Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District. In addition, **Granton Area School District** was nominated for a District Sustainability Award.

The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools, districts, and higher education institutions that reduce schools' environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff members, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. This is the fourth year of the program. Wisconsin had three public schools and one public school district receive national awards in 2015. Overall, there have been 248 schools and 37 school districts recognized nationally for their sustainability efforts.

“Our Green Ribbon nominees are working to reduce the costs of running their schools through comprehensive environmental and sustainability planning,” Evers said. “They are improving their recycling efforts to reduce waste, reducing energy consumption, working on health and wellness initiatives for their

students and staff members, and are ensuring that students understand and can address the major environmental and sustainability challenges we all face.”

### U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Wisconsin Honorees

#### 2015

Colby Elementary School  
Columbus Elementary-Discovery Charter School  
Lake Mills Elementary School  
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

#### 2014

Conserve School, Land O' Lakes  
Greendale School District  
Hurley K-12 School  
Park Elementary School, Cross Plains  
Tomorrow River Community Charter School, Amherst Junction

#### 2013

Fort Atkinson School District  
Jefferson Elementary-Fox River Academy, Appleton  
Racine Montessori School  
Summit Environmental School, La Crosse  
Westlawn Elementary School, Cedarburg

#### 2012

Dimensions of Learning Academy, Kenosha  
Middleton High School  
Purdy Elementary School, Fort Atkinson

(more)

The online application required extensive data collection and reporting about the school’s facility, its health and safety policies, food service, and environmental and sustainability curriculum and assessment. Each application is reviewed by two state-level teams of education consultants and content experts. Reviewers considered the applicant’s demonstrated progress in nine areas: community involvement, energy, environmental health, environmental education, health and wellness, recycling and waste management, school site, transportation, and water.

At the federal level, applications from each participating state will be reviewed to determine if the nominees: 1) meet all of the eligibility requirements; 2) comply with all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environment and safety statutory and regulatory requirements; and 3) meet high college- and career-ready academic standards. Winners will be announced on April 22.

Each of the nominees will also receive Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin “Sugar Maple” certification and be recognized nationally through Project Learning Tree’s “Green Schools” program. To learn more about the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program visit: <http://dpi.wi.gov/environmental-ed/green-ribbon-schools>. To learn more about Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin certification, visit: [www.GHSWisconsin.org](http://www.GHSWisconsin.org).

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016\\_23.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_23.pdf).

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Green Ribbon School Nominations: <http://dpi.wi.gov/environmental-ed/green-ribbon-schools>

Green Ribbon Past State Recipients: <http://dpi.wi.gov/environmental-ed/green-ribbon-schools/honorees>

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>