



For Immediate Release:

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Connecticut schools receive Green Ribbon honors from U.S. Department of Education

*Schools in Greenwich, Hartford, Stamford and Westport named Green Ribbon Schools
and Stamford Public Schools named Green Ribbon District*

HARTFORD, CT—The State Department of Education today announced that four schools and one district from Connecticut are among the selected 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. The awardees named today are the Stamford Public Schools District, Greenwich’s Parkway Elementary School, Hartford’s Academy of Engineering and Green Technology, Stamford’s Rogers International School, and Westport’s Greens Farms Academy.

Honored schools “greened” their campuses by partnering with local farms to sell produce and promote healthy eating, building a windmill that was shipped to Nepal to power a school, creating a wildlife sanctuary that includes meadows and marshes, and maintaining miles of nature trails, among many other activities. Stamford District was honored for its focus on energy and facility management across the district, along with a focus on green learning and healthy living skills for its students.

“On the same day we take a big step towards reducing our emissions over the next generation through Executive Order, our schools are recognized for their efforts to promote green practices. If we are to build a brighter future tomorrow, we need to make smart decisions on sustainability inside and outside our schools today,” said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. “We’re proud that Connecticut is making such a significant impact as we make smart decisions to put our state on a brighter path for the short- and long-term. Be it through today’s Executive Order, through our first-in-the-nation Green Bank, or the schools recognized today, we are no doubt delivering important progress for our future. I would like to thank Secretary Duncan, and congratulate all those recognized as Green Ribbon schools.”

In total, across the country, 58 schools and 14 districts were honored for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways.

“Connecticut’s young people are among the savviest of next generation environmentalists—it’s imperative that our schools are leading efforts to curb pollution, improve efficiency, and reduce our overall impact on the planet,” said Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman. “I applaud Connecticut’s 2015 Green Ribbon schools for protecting our environment today and setting us on a course towards a more sustainable future.”

This is the fourth year of the Green Ribbon School award program and the third year Connecticut nominated schools for consideration. Today's honorees were nominated by the Connecticut [Green LEAF](#) program, which is free and open to all K-12 schools, both public and private. Through the program, schools receive support to grow greener and focus on "LEAF": leading, educating, achieving, and fostering healthy, green schools for all.

Currently, 76 schools participate in the program, which operates through a collaboration of the Connecticut Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, Administrative Services, and Public Health, along with more than 35 environmental and educational partners.

"Our Green Ribbon recipients are leading the way for other schools and districts in Connecticut when it comes to promoting healthy, green environments and supporting sustainability," said Department of Education Commissioner Designee Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell. "We congratulate this year's awardees and thank the Connecticut Green LEAF program partnership for supporting our schools efforts to 'go green.'"

"How fitting to honor Connecticut schools for their commitment to the environment and the protection of natural resources on Earth Day," said Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Rob Klee. "The steps our schools are taking allow them to operate in a more sustainable manner and are setting an excellent example for the students they serve."

"The Department of Administrative Services congratulates all of the honorees - Stamford Public Schools District, Greenwich's Parkway Elementary, Hartford's Academy of Engineering and Green Technology, Stamford's Rogers International School, and Westport's Greens Farms Academy - for promoting healthy school environments in Connecticut's school buildings and leading by example for Connecticut schools and for the nation as well," said Department of Administrative Services Commissioner (DAS) Melody Currey. "We are proud to be a partner with the other state agencies to support Green LEAF and its successes over the last three years. This is a proud day for Connecticut schools and school districts!"

"By going green, these schools are making it easier for students to enjoy healthy, active lifestyles," said Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner Dr. Jewel Mullen. "The strategies they are employing, such as increasing access to healthy foods and promoting physical activity, are consistent with the state's strategy to improve health and help to build healthy communities."

Stamford School District, Stamford, CT

Stamford School District serves 16,149 students in 20 schools in an urban/suburban environment. They received Green Ribbon recognition for their outstanding focus on energy and resource management across the district resulting in nearly \$500,000 in savings a year, while also providing healthy environments for education. "Green" activities include having 12 schools fully vested in the CT Green LEAF program and completing comprehensive self-assessments. Districtwide, Stamford provides curriculum support for STEM showcase events, participation in many outdoor learning activities with environmental partner organizations, creating wildlife habitats. Twelve schools have been recognized as HeathierUS School Challenge Bronze winners for personal health and nutrition support to students.

Parkway School, Greenwich, CT

Parkway is a PK-5 elementary school in Greenwich serving 260 students. “Green” education activities at Parkway include constructing a pollinator garden that is certified as a National Fish and Wildlife Schoolyard Habitat, partnering with a local organic farmer to sell produce and learn about healthy eating, hosting Green LEAF Night to share lessons about sustainable living with families, and service learning projects.

Academy of Engineering and Green Technology, Hartford, CT

Academy of Engineering and Green Technology of Hartford serves 438 students in Grades 9-12. More than 95 percent of the student body is eligible for free- and reduced-price lunch, 28 percent are English learners, and more than 96 percent are minority students. The school is a model of “green” service—collecting 20 tons of e-waste for recycling, hosting an Environmental Summit on Sustainability, and leading clean-up days in city parks and neighborhoods. Students support a school garden that provides plants and produce to their community and participate in professional internships focused on green careers. Additionally, they have learned through doing in a project that built a windmill/solar system for a school in Nepal.

Rogers International School, Stamford, CT

Rogers International School in Stamford is a magnet school with an environmental focus, serving 804 K-8 students. Approximately 51 percent of the students in the district receive free- and reduced-price lunch, and 13 percent of the students are English learners. The school provides a unique learning laboratory with its LEED Silver certified building, including rooftop garden, ice storage cooling system, and surrounding marsh and meadows Wildlife Sanctuary. Many lessons are learned outdoors, including a Trout in the Classroom program that releases fish into the Mianus River, fitness challenges, and a service project building a purple martin nesting house for the campus.

Greens Farms Academy, Westport, CT

Greens Farms Academy of Westport, is an independent school serving Grades PK-12. The school provides science and cultural exploration in its woodland trails, marsh and beachfront areas. Greens Farms focuses on “green” in both its curriculum and grounds, with organic gardens and grounds maintenance, food sourcing and serving, water and energy use. Students are included at all levels in learning about the natural environment and making wise choices.

This year’s honorees join five other Connecticut schools that earned federal Green Ribbon recognition in the previous two years. The other five schools are Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School in Bridgeport, Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Environmental Science Magnet at Mary Hooker in Hartford, and Common Ground High School and Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet in New Haven.

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