

Arlington Public Schools

Press Release

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U.S. Secretary of Education Names Arlington Public Schools a 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee

The U.S. Department of Education announced today that Arlington Public Schools in Arlington, MA is among the 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardees.

Arlington Public Schools was nominated by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The district's recognition is based on three areas: reducing greenhouse gases, addressing the nutrition, fitness, mindfulness, and overall health of students and staff, and teaching curricula that addresses environmental topics at the elementary, middle and high school level.

Greenhouse gas initiatives cited include composting lunchroom food waste; solar panels on six school buildings (with display screens in each of the participating schools to educate the school community about how much clean energy each school is producing); LED exterior lighting; and kitchen upgrades. Wellness is supported by the Arlington Eats program, which provides daily healthy snacks in collaboration with the Arlington Food Pantry. Mindfulness-based programs and before and after school fitness opportunities also improve wellness. At the elementary and middle school level, many of the science classes address environmental topics, aligning with the Massachusetts science and technology/engineering curriculum framework. The high school offers several classes that include environmental science and policy issues.

"It is such an honor to be cited on the national level for our efforts to be a sustainable district and to educate students who see themselves as powerful change makers," says Superintendent Kathleen Bodie. "With the support of the Town of Arlington, and the work of students, parents, faculty, and staff, our district is making a positive change today and for the future." Rachel Oliveri, Arlington School Sustainability Coordinator continues, "This award recognizes and strengthens the commitment of Arlington's Green Teams to creating a more sustainable school environment."

Across the country, 46 schools, six districts, and six postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

The honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 25 states and the Department of Defense Department of Education Activity. The selectees include 40 public schools, including two magnet schools and two charter schools, as well as six nonpublic schools. Forty-five percent of the 2018 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body.

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, as well as their nomination packages, can be found [here](#). A report with highlights on the 58 honorees can be found [here](#). More information on the federal recognition award can be found [here](#). Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found [here](#).