

**Arlington Public Schools**

**Press Release**

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## **Arlington Public Schools Named 2018 Massachusetts Green Ribbon School District**

Arlington Public Schools is pleased to announce it has been named a 2018 Massachusetts Green Ribbon School by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The award was given at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The district is being honored for its leadership in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and delivering effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), civic skills, and green career pathways. Arlington's winning award application has been submitted for consideration as a National Green Ribbon School District, which will be announced later this week. Mendon-Upton Regional School District was also named a Massachusetts Green Ribbon School District.

Representing Arlington was Superintendent Kathleen Bodie, School Sustainability Coordinator Rachel Oliveri, Town of Arlington Energy and Project Manager Ken Pruitt, and students and parents from Thompson Elementary School. Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs spoke at the event. The award was presented by Jim Peyser, Secretary of the Executive Office of Education, and Jeff Riley, Commissioner of the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"We are thrilled to be recognized for our district-wide work towards becoming a more sustainable school system," said Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent. "This recognition honors the work of students, parents, faculty and staff across the district, as well as support from the Town of Arlington."

Work noted in Arlington's application includes composting lunchroom food waste, recycling textiles and other waste, conducting waste audits, using safer green cleaning products, several fitness and health programs, and age appropriate environmental and gardening education. Also included was Arlington's successful work to reduce municipal energy use. Schools have furthered this success with solar panels and updated efficient natural gas boilers.