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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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November 16, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents and Food Service Directors

**FROM:** Michael Chavez, Director, Student Success and Wellness Bureau *MC*  
Dean Hopper, Director, Safe and Healthy Schools Bureau *DH*  
Gabe Baca, Director, Student, School and Family Support Bureau *GB*

**RE:** U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Recognition Program

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is pleased to announce application availability for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recognition program. The purpose of this program is to inspire schools and districts to strive for 21<sup>st</sup> century excellence in whole-school sustainability while highlighting replicable best practices in the promotion of health and environmental literacy.

ED selects honorees nationwide. Selection will be based on documentation of the applicant's high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs;
- Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
- Provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

Schools demonstrating progress in all three Pillars will receive the highest rankings. A team should be assembled to document concrete achievement. This team might include: your facilities manager, physical education director, food services director, curriculum director, finance department representatives, teachers, and students. You should consult the ED-GRS page at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html> for more information about the recognition program.

Becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School is a two-step process. The first step is to complete and submit this form to be selected as a nominee. If selected as a nominee by the NMPED, the second step of the process requires signatures for the Nominee Presentation Form that will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) along with your application.

**Applications are due by January 11, 2019 to Kendal Chavez at [Kendal.Chavez@state.nm.us](mailto:Kendal.Chavez@state.nm.us).** NMPED will select nominees and submit them to the U.S. Department of Education by **February 15, 2019**. Please contact Kendal Chavez at (505) 827-1807 if you have questions during the course of application completion.

Honored schools and school districts are announced each spring and are recognized at an annual ceremony. The recognition award conveys no ED funding to ED-GRS awardees.

Enc. (1): New Mexico K-12 ED-GRS Application Form 2018-2019