

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Pam Stewart

**DATE:** May 16, 2014

**SUBJECT:** 2013-14 Florida Green School and District Recognition Opportunity

**Contact Information:**

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**DPS: 2014-68**

Florida schools and districts have established themselves, both in Florida and nationally, as leaders of green school initiatives. We support these efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve the health and wellness of students and staff; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education (including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]; civic skills; and green career pathways). Please help us document your success by applying for a Florida Green School Award.

In Florida, we are privileged to have a well-established statewide green school recognition program sponsored by the Florida Green School Network (FGSN). The FGSN is a partnership between Florida's Departments of Education, Environmental Protection and Health along with Sustainable Florida. The award program has existed for six years and recognizes the efforts of K-12 students, teachers, schools and school districts that are creating more efficient, safer and healthier learning environments; reducing operational costs; decreasing environmental impacts; and promoting environmental and sustainability education. District facilities managers and STEM coordinators have served as champions to assist school staff, students and district personnel to submit high quality applications.

I encourage you to support your district, schools, teachers and students to submit an application this year. The application period for the 2013-2014 Florida Green Schools Award Program opened on April 30, 2014. The application opportunity for students, teachers and school level applications will be open until June 20, 2014, and the school district application will be open through July 25, 2014, at <http://www.floridagreenetwork.org/green-school-award/florida-green-school-awards/>.

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In 2013, the FGSN partnership was recognized at the 16th Annual Best Practice Awards Ceremony with a Sustainable Partnership Award in recognition for the network's achievements and excellence in helping create a more sustainable economic, environmental and social future for Florida. In 2014, the FGSN partnership was awarded a 2014 Prudential Productivity Award for creating and implementing innovative solutions and productivity improvements in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue for state government.

In the 2012-2013 school year, green school projects, led by Florida Green School Awards participants, generated over \$30 million in cost savings. Remarkably, these costs savings were generated by a handful of projects in eight out of 67 Florida school districts. Many school districts efforts go unnoticed; with more school districts committed to participate in this program, their recognition and the potential savings that can be generated statewide will be much greater.

Thank you for your continued support of green school initiatives and for sharing the recognition opportunity with your district staff, schools, teachers and students for the 2013-2014 Florida Green School Awards. If you have any further questions, please contact Romina Sola, Florida Green School Network coordinator at [Romina.Sola@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Romina.Sola@dep.state.fl.us) or 239-338-8758.

PS/pt

cc: School District Facilities Managers  
School District STEM Coordinators