



Frequently Asked Questions

About the Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin Online Application

Thank you for your commitment to making your school more green and healthy! At any time in the process, feel free to contact us at DNRGHSWisconsin@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-7622 with your questions.

I don't remember my username or password.

We can look up your username, so get in touch! For lost passwords, use "Trouble signing in?" to reset.

Do we need to check all the certification boxes on page 3 of the registration section?

Yes, those are the GHS program prerequisites and state requirements. Private schools NOT participating in a Parental Choice Program may skip the IEQ plan requirement. If you are unclear about any of the requirements, check with your school or district administration. If you select "Unknown," you can save your progress and go to other pages.

Do I need to answer every question to get recognition for completing a certain focus area?

No, you do not! There are multiple ways to document progress in the focus areas, and the detailed questions are there to show some of the options. Those questions should be treated like a guide. Complete the questions that are relevant to your school. It is ok to leave questions unanswered.

Please Note: Many of the focus area questions are grouped into "Students, Staff, and Curriculum" or "Facilities." In most cases, a strong application will have some accomplishments noted in each of those areas. If your school faces some hurdles limiting your ability to complete questions in both sections, make the section you are completing as strong as possible.

How do I get to another focus area?

You can get to all the focus areas from the main page for each application. They are listed under the Seedling and Sugar Maple sections, but complete them in any order you like.

I encountered a broken link in the application; who can I contact?

Sorry about that! We do our best to keep up with all current web links. Please notify the GHS coordinator at DNRGHSWisconsin@wisconsin.gov.

Can homeschools get recognition?

Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin participation is not currently available for homeschooling families and groups. However, resources are always available at GHSWisconsin.org and anyone can sign up for the monthly e-newsletter (please put "homeschool" in the School/Organization blank). Please follow Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin on social media!

Do I need to address each focus area to be considered a green and healthy school?

No, we have four levels in the program – Sprout, Seedling, Sapling, and Sugar Maple status. To be considered a Green & Healthy School, complete and submit the Registration section. Then your application will get a Sprout review and your school started on its green and healthy path.

How do I handle projects that might fit in more than one focus area?

When describing a project, use the optional comments or narrative boxes in each focus area to show how the project relates to that focus area. You don't need to describe everything about the project in both areas.

How much detail do I need to provide?

You need enough to illustrate your efforts. Try to write so that someone from outside your school can visualize what you've done. Be succinct and clear in your description. The more specific you can be, the easier it is for your school to get recognized for its efforts! Those reviewing your application will rate how well you demonstrate evidence of achievement. Below is the rubric that is used by the reviewers for each focus area of the application.

<u>Strong Evidence</u>	<u>Some Evidence</u>	<u>Little Evidence</u>	<u>No Evidence</u>
Well developed and described achievement in this section. Multiple and robust efforts documented in the focus area.	Supporting evidence provided in the application clearly explaining or indicating achievement.	At least one question affirmatively addressed in this section. Details of the depth of achievement lacking. More information needed.	No questions addressed in this section providing affirmative evidence of achievement.

We want to be recognized as a Green Ribbon School. What do we need to do?

You must demonstrate achievement in all nine focus areas and be at a Sugar Maple School level (whether reviewed yet or not). Each year, DPI will automatically review newly awarded Sugar Maple schools for possible nomination to the US Department of Education. For submission deadlines for this year's nomination, please visit <http://eeinwisconsin.org/net/org/info.aspx?s=110993.0.0.2209>.

We have three schools in one building. Do I need to complete three separate applications?

No. On the application, please put a slash between the names of the schools housed within the building: for example, Snowy Hill Elementary/Middle/High School.

How do we get recognition as a green and healthy school at the district level?

GHS recognizes individual schools, not districts. However, if your district is interested in being nominated for a US Department of Education District Sustainability Award, you will complete the same application, indicating your district status and interest in the award in the eligibility section.