

News Release: PGCPs Tops the State in Green School Certification

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For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Office of Communications

301-952-6001

communications@pgcps.org (<mailto:communications@pgcps.org>)

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to lead the state with the most number of schools earning new Maryland Green School certifications.

Twenty-one schools recently earned certification and five schools were recertified, raising the total number of PGCPS Green Schools to 92 – approximately 16 percent of the total 582 Maryland Green Schools.

“Over the past three years, we have seen tremendous growth in our number of Green Schools,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS. “These schools serve as models for environmental awareness, management and education in our communities, encouraging students to be lifelong environmental stewards.”

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the nation. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness, and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

The district’s William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center, which provides an overnight outdoor education program to all fifth-graders annually, received MAEOE’s prestigious Maryland Green Center Sustainable Award this year. The Center has played a key role in growing the number of certifications by assisting schools with achieving and maintaining Green School status through modeling, educational programs, application guidance, and support.

Green Schools must recertify every four years to keep their status current. After three consecutive recertifications, schools are considered “model schools” and no longer have to recertify. Five schools – Deerfield Run Elementary, Gwynn Park High School, Laurel Elementary, Lewisdale Elementary and Tanglewood Regional School – recertified their Green School status this year. The following 21 schools earned new certifications:

- Accokeek Academy
- Allenwood Elementary School
- Apple Grove Elementary School
- Catherine T. Reed Elementary School
- Dodge Park Elementary School
- Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School
- Edward M. Felegy Elementary School
- Fairmont Heights High School
- Flintstone Elementary School
- Gaywood Elementary School
- Green Valley Academy @ Edgar Allan Poe
- James H Harrison Elementary School
- Largo High School
- Laurel High School
- Maya Angelou French Immersion
- Montpelier Elementary School
- Northview Elementary School
- Oxon Hill Middle School
- Princeton Elementary School
- Robert R. Gray Elementary School
- Tulip Grove Elementary School

All newly-certified and recertified schools and centers will be honored during the MAEOE Youth Summit on May 18 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Schools will receive a Maryland Green School or Center flag, statewide and local recognition, and special gifts.

For more information about the Green School Program, visit the MAEOE website.

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.