

Green-print for School or District-wide Sustainability and Literacy



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Hello!



George Garcia

Education Programs Consultant
California Green Ribbon Schools
Recognition Award



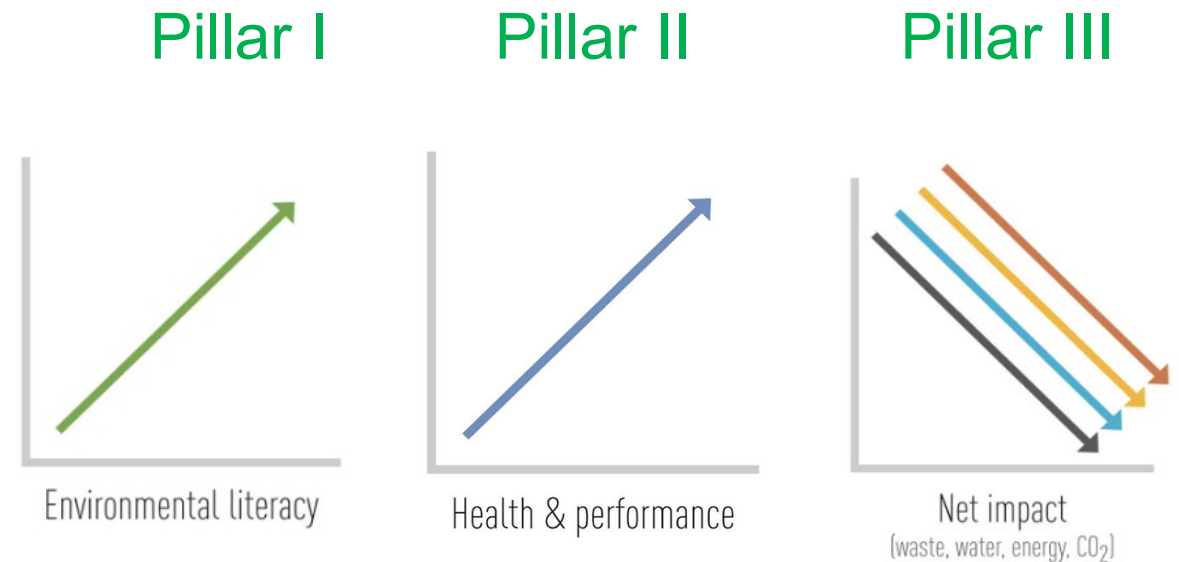
The Award's Three Pillars

Schools and districts earn state recognition by demonstrating achievement in Three Pillars:

Pillar I: Provide effective environmental and sustainability literacy

Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff

Pillar III: Reduce environmental impact and costs



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Application Process

- ❖ **Start the application with current achievements; treat it as an iterative process.**
- ❖ **Apply early to assess strengths and quick improvements.**
- ❖ **Use the application as a roadmap for future planning and yearly updates.**
- ❖ **Connect with technical advisors for feedback, next steps, and resources.**
- ❖ **Join statewide network meetings to learn from others.**

Green Ribbon Schools Are Leading the Way for Sustainability

- Part Place
- Part Program
- Part Culture



Steps for Whole-School Sustainability



Self Assess



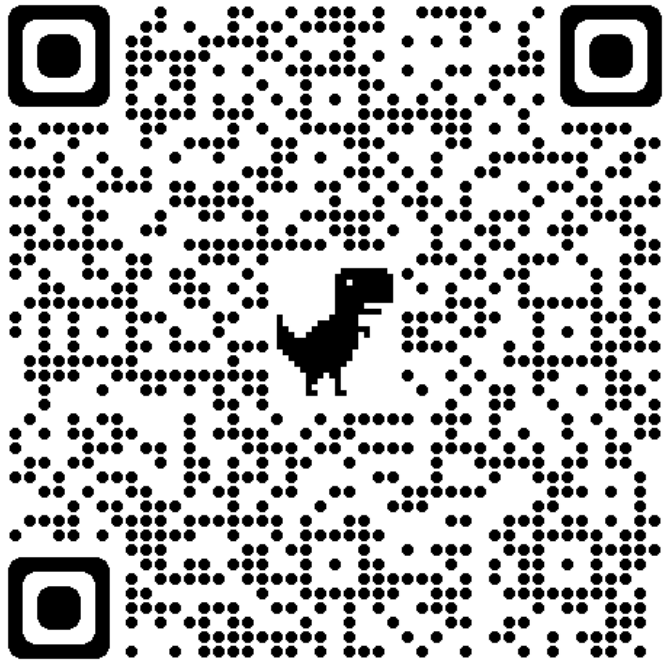
Assemble a Team



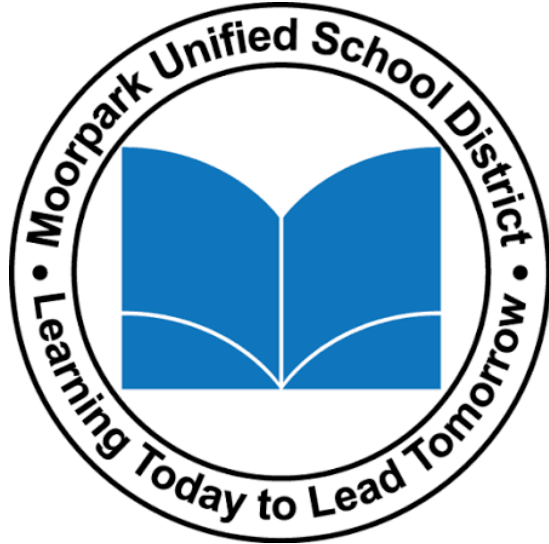
Make a Plan

Five-Minute Self Assessment

bit.ly/SAGRS



Past Honoree Experts



Assistant Director of Instructional
Services
Nathan Inouye

Moorpark Unified School District
Moorpark, CA



Principal Elizabeth Cochrane-Benoit
Special Educator Raymond Sayre
Educator Stephanie Robinson

Captain Leland F. Norton Elementary
San Bernardino, CA

What challenges did you face when answering questions in the application?

How did you overcome these issues?

Who/what were the most important resources to get the information you needed?

What local community-based organizations and/ or resources did you partner with in your work towards sustainability?

Are there any last thoughts or words of advice you have for new applicants?

Application as a Roadmap



Assemble the TEAM!

Recommended Team Members:

- **Lead Applicant***
- Supporting Teachers
- **Site Administrator**
- **District Office Personnel**
 - **Business Office**
 - **Maintenance and Operations Office**
- Students
- Parents



Organize Your Efforts

After you assemble teams, strategize and assign responsibility for each question.

Pillar 1 Questions

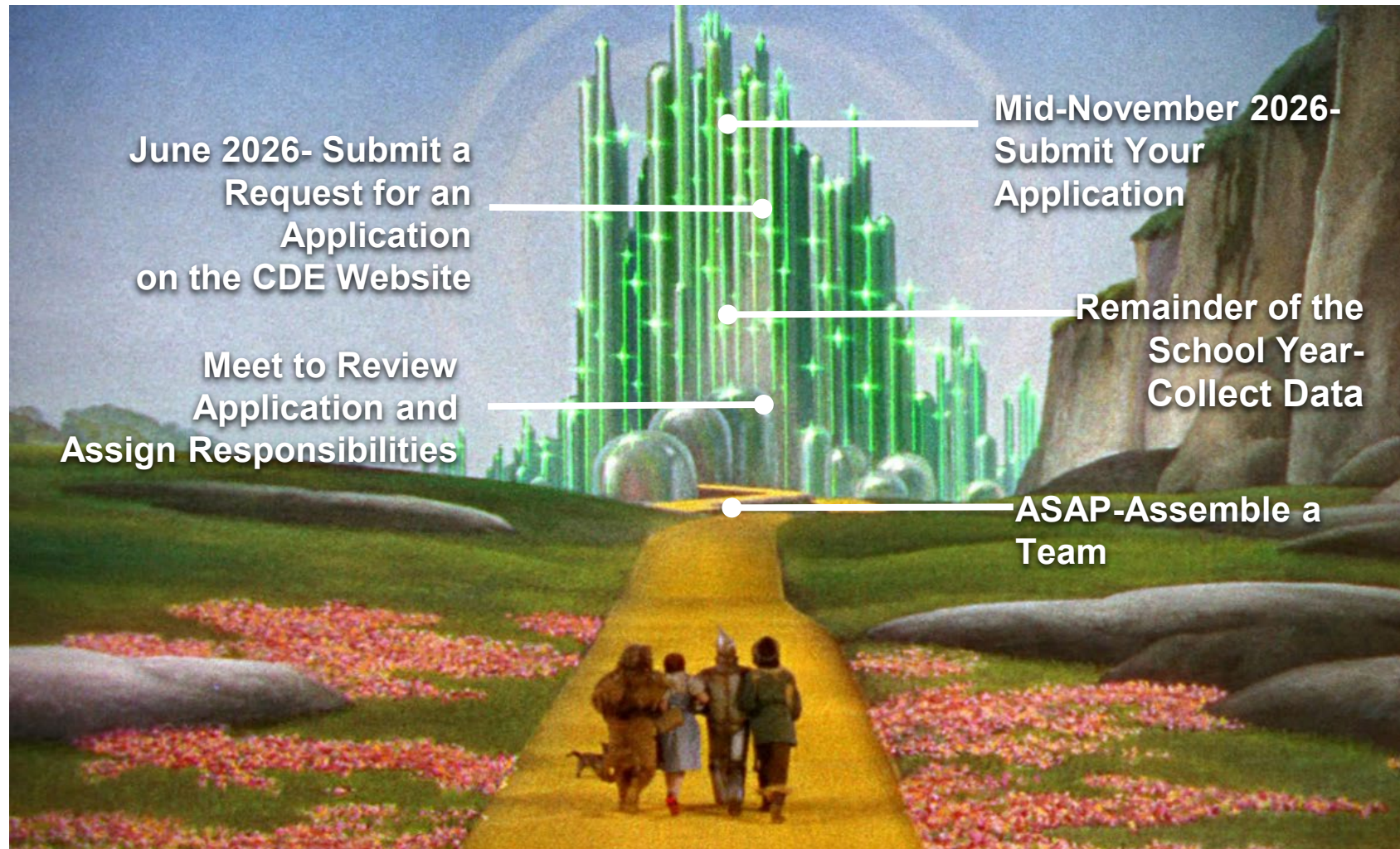
Pillar 2 Questions

Pillar 3 Questions

*List of 2026/27 Updates



Timeline for a 2027 Application



Resources

- [CA-GRS Applicant Toolkit](#)
- [California Green Ribbon Schools Award: Key Information for Applicants](#)
- [CA Green Ribbon Schools Resource Links](#)



Breakout Groups to Discuss Self-Assessment Results, Challenges, and Questions



Why Schools Apply

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Reason #1: Receive Statewide Recognition



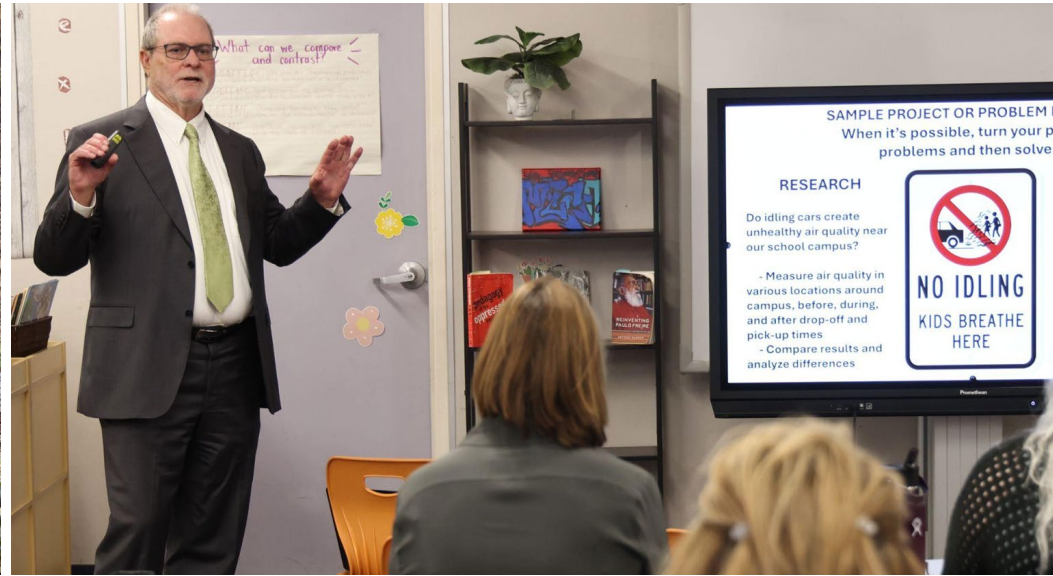
Reason #2: Celebrate Achievements



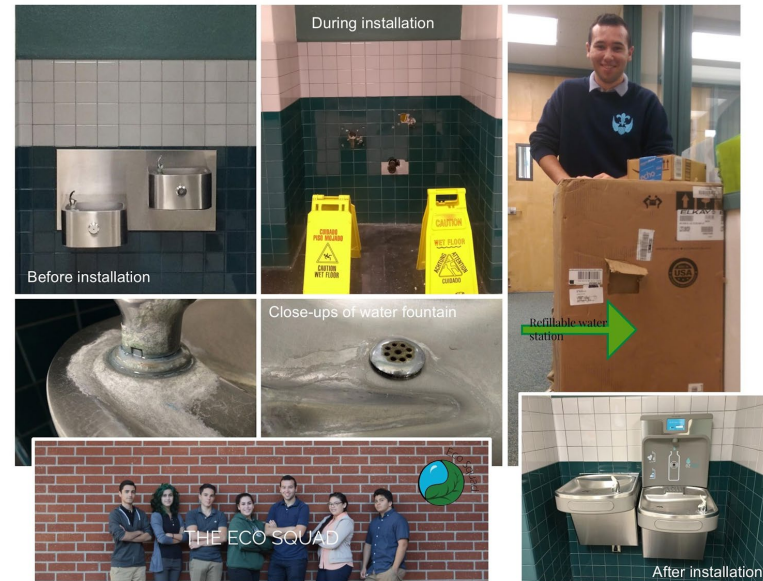
Reason #3: Invite New Partnerships



Reason #4: Share Best Practices



Reason #5: Identify school site environment as an asset



Reason #6: Build school culture



YOU Are Leading the Way for Sustainability

- Part Place
- Part
- Program
- Part Culture



Feel free to reach out to us:

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