



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

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**Alabama’s Tuscaloosa City Schools Named Recipient of U.S.  
Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Honor**

*Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing  
Environmental Impact, Lowering Costs, and Improving Health and Wellness*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – The U.S. Department of Education today released the names of the 2021 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees.



**In Alabama, the Tuscaloosa City Schools system was named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Awardee.**

The Tuscaloosa City School System was nominated by the Alabama State Department of Education. This school system is a leader in alternative fuel use in our state.

Across the country, approximately 27 schools, three early learning centers, five districts, and five postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

The list of all selected schools, districts, and universities may be found at:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html>

“The pandemic has driven home the vital importance of school buildings and grounds; health and wellness; and hands-on authentic learning,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. “I congratulate the selected schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions, which are, through their sustainability practices, offering healthy, safe, efficient school environments and protecting our planet. Not surprisingly, many of our honorees support students in underserved communities, proving once again that green schools’ practices, encompassing best practices school operations, health, and environmental learning, are critical tools to advance equity.”

**Tuscaloosa City Schools (TCS)** has worked with bus manufacturers across the nation to advance environmental standards. It has shared its best practice methods and efforts in converting its fleet to propane, with many other school systems throughout the nation.

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*Tuscaloosa City Schools Named U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District*

“We are proud of the strong environmental commitment, which has been demonstrated by the Tuscaloosa City School System,” said State Superintendent, Dr. Eric G. Mackey. “It is important for Alabama’s communities and local schools to create a positive impact on their surroundings. The Tuscaloosa City School Systems’ conservation efforts are commendable and a great example for our entire state.”

Currently, TCS is using a fleet of 98 propane and 27 diesel buses. Their diesel-powered vehicles are primarily reserved for longer road trips.

*Tuscaloosa CAN!* is this school system’s responsive effort to reduce regional family food insecurity. Through this innovative effort, TCS students and schools work in teams to gather local food donations and create large sculptures made from canned food items. The event provides students opportunities for project-based and service-focused learning.

The *Alabama Wildlife Federation* has assisted in the installment of ponds at two TCS elementary schools and has also certified five TCS schools for the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program.

The 2021 Green Ribbon Schools honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 20 states. Over half of the honorees serve a disadvantaged student body.

A special report with highlights on the 40 honorees is available at the following weblink:

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html>

For more information on *Alabama’s Green Ribbon Schools*, contact Dr. Michal Robinson at [mrobinson@alsde.edu](mailto:mrobinson@alsde.edu) or Jonathan Thompson at [jonathan.thompson@alsde.edu](mailto:jonathan.thompson@alsde.edu).

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