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News

West Hartford Public Schools keeps eye on environment, commits to Green LEAF program

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WEST HARTFORD – West Hartford Public Schools is the first full district to sign on to the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools Program, with commitment letters from all of its 16 public school principals, representing grades kindergarten through twelfth.

Connecticut's Green LEAF Schools is a collaboration of the Connecticut Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Health, and Construction Services, as well as more than 30 environmental and educational organizations. The program is focused on effective environmental and sustainability education for students, improved health and wellness of students and staff, and reduced environmental impact and cost of buildings, offering schools resources and supports to help them improve in these areas. Each school receives support and recognition for its accomplishments.

All Connecticut public and private schools, grades K-12, are eligible to participate. Schools that show significant progress in the Green LEAF program can be nominated for the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Award program. In 2012-13, 89 schools from 31 states were nominated – including three winners from Connecticut. For 2013-14 Connecticut expands its program to also recognize district efforts to green their schools.

About Connecticut Green LEAF School Program

The Connecticut Green LEAF School program supports Connecticut schools in providing effective environmental and sustainability education, improving the health, and wellness of their students and staff and reducing their environmental impact and costs. LEAF stands for "Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering green, healthy schools for all." The program is a collaborative effort led by the Connecticut Departments of Construction Services, Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Public Health, along with more than 30 other state educational and environmental organizations. The program celebrates and recognizes Connecticut schools making progress toward sustainability. The Connecticut Green LEAF School program will also support the nomination of a select group of schools to the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon School program. For more information, please visit www.ctgreenleaf.org, www.ctgreenschools.org/ctgreenleaf.htm, www.ctenergyeducation.com, www.sustainenergy.org

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