



District Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

Certifications

District's Certifications

The signatures of the district superintendent on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the district's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the superintendent's knowledge.

1. The district has been evaluated and selected from among districts within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The district is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated school district has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the school district has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
6. The district meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award 2019-2021

Name of Superintendent: Mrs. Laurie J. Gaylord
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

District Name: Martin County School District
(As it should appear on an award)

Address: 500 SE Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, FL 34994
Telephone: 772-219-1200
Web site/URL: www://martinschools.org E-mail: gaylor@martin.k12.fl.us

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Laurie J. Gaylord

(Superintendent's Signature)

Date: *January 14, 2020*



Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the district's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The district is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental education.
2. The district meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Florida Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Commissioner Richard Corcoran
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Date: 02/05/2020

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



U.S. Department of Education
Green Ribbon Schools
2019-2020 TECHNICAL REVIEW

Nominee	Martin County School District, 500 SE Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, Florida, 34994	
Evaluation Issues	Approvable	Special Notes
<p>Florida Department of Environment Protection: Check all records available regarding environmental violations for this school district office.</p> <p>Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Diane Pupa, Business Planning Program Manager, South East District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection</i></p>	<p align="center">YES 1-31-20</p>	<p>No violations outstanding.</p>
<p>Florida Department of Health: Check Radon Monitoring Records:</p> <p>Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Joseph Kidder, Radon and Indoor Air Program; Bureau of Environmental Health; Division of Disease Control & Health Protection; Florida Department of Health</i></p>	<p align="center">In Progress; majority of the schools have the required radon testing documentation in the DOH system. 1-31-20</p>	<p>Florida law requires schools to test for radon levels every five years. 20 sites have documentation in compliance within the DOH system. The remaining school radon testing information will be provided within the next 30 days.</p>
<p>Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Check compliance with regulations related to National School Lunch Program</p> <p>Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Lisa Church, Supervisor of Implementation, NSLP, SSO, SMP, Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</i></p>	<p align="center">YES 1-23-20</p>	<p>In compliance.</p>
<p>Florida Department of Education: Check compliance with USDOE Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</p> <p>Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Victoria Gaitanis, Program Specialist, Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services, Florida Department of Education</i></p>	<p align="center">Yes 1-22-20</p>	<p>Martin has corrected all their identified areas of noncompliance as of 11/19/2019.</p>

Martin County School District Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Summary

Martin County School District (MCSD) demonstrates commitment to the three ED-GRS Pillars on a daily basis with innovative efforts that have been recognized at local, state, and national levels.

Food & Nutrition Services professionals have been honored for promoting healthier eating habits, such as Crunch Crew. Their efforts were supported by a federal grant from the USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program. South Fork High School's (SFHS) Landscape Operations/Turfgrass Management Teacher received the 2019 Harbor Freight "Tools for Schools" Prize for Teaching Excellence. One of only three high schools in the nation with a golf course, SFHS graduates students with professional certification through the Academy of Landscape Operations, and capitalizes on green career opportunities within the community. Modern Energy Solutions, Inc., created by student entrepreneurs, presented at Launch X's 2019 Global Demo Day at MIT. Their energy-saving invention currently has a patent pending.

The District works closely with Waste Management, vendor for solid waste removal and recyclable materials collection, resulting in successful disposal/processing services. MCSD is diverting 35% of materials from solid waste, reducing its carbon footprint, and contributing to preservation of valuable landfill space. New or renovated facilities incorporate energy and water savings as well as outdoor access via features such as courtyards. Energy is further saved by operating on a four-day week in June/July. School sites try to limit disruption of natural hydrology and follow South Florida Water Permit regulations that improve water quality, efficiency, and conservation.

Green Teams at individual schools sponsor activities like No Idle Zones, Bike to School promotions, and National Walk to School Day. The fleet of approximately 100 school buses are fueled by ultra-low sulphur diesel and there is a hybrid car used by the Superintendent's Office.

The school environmental health program includes integrated pest management, emphasis on appropriate ventilation, and careful chemical management. The District employs the EPA Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality Program (IAQ). Conditions adversely affecting moisture control are also addressed using Tools for Schools guidelines and are identified and repaired on a timely basis.

MCSD leverages student-led mental health programs and community partnerships while building the capacity of school-based mental health professionals. A comprehensive set of 27 programs helps all students develop appropriate cognitive, behavioral, and emotional skills. The majority of these are evidence-based; several emphasize bullying prevention. Building on these programs are activities such as the student-led performances of *Speak*

Life to End Bullying, which drew thousands of students, parents, and local residents last month.

Food & Nutrition Services recently produced a video for parents to assist with school meal choices for diabetic children. It is readily accessible on the District's website. Health and safety are emphasized during Healthy Snack Day, after school Gardening Clubs, and CPR training provided for 6th graders. Annual fitness activities include track meets for all grades and events such as Jump for Love.

The Employee Wellness Program improves the health and well-being of staff and their dependents through information, preventive screenings and popular activities such as the recent Chopped Cooking Contest.

Project Lead the Way-Engineering Pathways is a popular Career and Technical Education program. High school students can also participate in the Regional and Florida Envirothons, which focus on field experiences. Martin County's Envirothon team has an emphasis on the Indian River Lagoon. RiverKidz provides second grade students with a standards-based curriculum about the community's unique ecosystem that encourages preservation of waterways. Robotics Teams are found throughout the District. Schools have a variety of outdoor learning spaces that are utilized by staff and students every day. Short nature walks, outdoor classrooms, butterfly gardens, and classroom/school gardens are readily available.

The District's own Environmental Studies Center provides students with explorations of the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon, beaches, mangrove swamps, freshwater ponds, and wetlands. Lessons take place indoors and outdoors in classrooms, science labs, the museum, and on the floating vessel *River Scout*. Each summer the Center offers Camp WET (Water, Environment, Technology) for students entering 5th/6th grades.

Fourth grade teachers participate in professional development using the Everglades Foundation Curriculum. Florida Power and Light sponsors in-school presentations by Captain Wattage and Inwater Research Group provides its traveling Turtle Trunk Program as well as participation in its social media campaign, #SeaTurtlesRock.

MCSD's Hobe Sound Elementary School is the first in the nation to be a fully certified Audubon Sanctuary Program. The District is also the first in Florida to partner with Publix Super Markets on the Plastic Bag Initiative. Team Green Martin is a school-based program that brings together students in both ESE programs and general education classrooms to work towards conservation goals and environmental preservation by focusing on recycling.

Students4H2O is a District-wide effort and students in all grades participate. Each year the group collaborates with the City of Stuart and the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast on Waterfest, a free community-wide event that promotes awareness of water conservation and environmental stewardship and is attended by hundreds.

Florida Green Ribbon School District Application (2019-20)

District Name: Martin County School District

Address: 500 SE Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, Florida, 34994

Website: <https://www.martinschools.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MCSDFlorida/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mcsdfloida>

Superintendent Name: Laurie J. Gaylord

Phone Number: (772) 219-1200 X30200

Superintendent Email Address: gaylorl@martin.k12.fl.us

Lead Applicant Name (if different): Same

Lead Applicant Email: Same

Phone Number: Same

Number of Elementary Schools: 12

Number of Middle Schools: 5

Number of High Schools: 4

Number of K-6 Schools: 1

Number of 6-12 Schools: 1

Number of K-12 Schools: 2

Number of Other Schools: 9

Total Sq. Ft.: 3,321,131

Total Students Served: 20,230

How would you describe your district? Suburban

Does your district serve 40 percent or more students from disadvantaged households as measured by percent receiving FRPL? Yes Percent FRPL: 54%

Cross-Cutting Question: Participation in green school programs

If your district is participating in a local, state, or national program, such as Florida Green School Awards, EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, Eco-Schools, Project Learning Tree or others, which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the pillars, then indicate the program(s), level(s) achieved, and year(s):

The Martin County School District submitted an application for the Florida Green School Awards, 2018-19. MCSD was previously recognized in 2017 as a Silver Level Florida Green School District Award Recipient for demonstrating exemplary achievement.

Coordinated by Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center and supported by the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, the Green Schools Recognition Program honors local schools that have taken a holistic and innovative approach to greening their campuses and academic programs. Their efforts include school grounds enhancement, resource conservation, environmental curriculum connections, community involvement and a school-wide commitment to sustainability. Levels of recognition are based on school commitment to conserving resources, participation in community projects, and dedication to sustainable practices. For the 2018-2019 school year, Martin County had 4 Green Schools of Promise, 2 Green Schools of Quality, and 7 Green Schools of Excellence. Five Judges Choice

Awards were also received, including the Garden Club and Bright Start Awards and recognition for Community Involvement, Outstanding Environmental Education, and Best Butterfly Learning Garden.

Local recognition was also received by the J.D. Parker Elementary School Green Club, winner of the 2019 Keep Martin Beautiful Staff Choice Award for its notable efforts to promote environmental stewardship and innovation through education and action. Keep Martin Beautiful is a local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful whose mission is to preserve and enhance the community's quality of life through litter prevention; waste reduction; beautification and community improvement; and environmental stewardship education.

MCSD has participated in the Florida Healthy School District Self-Assessment, achieving Silver Status in 2018.

If your district received any awards for facilities, health or environment, list the award(s) and year(s) below:

MCSD's Food & Nutrition Services professionals recently received 4 state-level awards from the Florida School Nutrition Association, including Innovative Idea – Administrator Award; Innovative Idea – Manager Award; Leadership Award – Manager; Super School Award – Secondary. FNS was also awarded a 2019 Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant to provide fresh produce for student snacks. In 2016 the Department received the USDA Southeast Region 2016 Best Practice Award for Implementing of the New Meal Pattern and Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption.

In October 2019, South Fork High School's Landscape Operations and Turfgrass Management Teacher was named one of three national winners of Harbor Freight's "Tools for Schools" Prize for Teaching Excellence. With lessons covering general agriculture and horticulture principles as well as design, installation, maintenance and mechanics, her classroom spans 75 acres and includes a three-hole golf course, a workshop, an equipment barn, a nursery and an orchard. In a county with more than 160 golf courses, this teacher helps her students develop the skills necessary to find green career opportunities close to home.

In 2019, South Fork High School's student entrepreneurs created Modern Energy Solutions, Inc. (MESI) as a Launch X project. They developed an affordable water heater attachment that will reduce electrical use, ultimately saving homeowners significantly and conserving energy. They were selected to present to other student entrepreneurs from around the world during Launch X Global Demo Day at MIT and currently have a patent pending on their invention.

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Cost

Describe how your district is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. Examples may include energy conservation program, 3R program, non-idling policy, reduced bus idling minutes, purchase of renewal energy credits, alternative transportation, green purchasing, etc.

Waste Management provides comprehensive solid waste and recyclable materials collection and disposal/processing services through a contract with MCSD. Each district facility is encouraged and empowered to reduce, reuse, and recycle year-round. Eighteen gallon bins serve as recycling receptacles for classrooms and sixty-four gallon mobile carts are deployed throughout all facilities to capture materials that can be separated and efficiently recycled. Since 2016, Waste Management has conducted regular on-site audits, working with staff at each facility to measure diversion and capture rates, re-assessing as needed.

Currently, the School District is diverting 35% of materials from solid waste, resulting in avoided disposal costs, reduction in the District's carbon footprint, and contributing to preservation of valuable landfill air space. To date, the Martin County School District is generating approximately 3,896 cubic yards of waste materials and 1,370 cubic yards per month of Single-Stream (comingled materials – all fiber and plastic, aluminum and glass) from each facility

Energy-saving LED indoor and outdoor lighting and lights controlled by occupancy sensors are included in the District's newest projects - Indiantown Middle School Administration and Media Center Building and Martin County High School's Administration and Classroom Building. Communications radios and many small tools and appliances use rechargeable batteries. The newer sites have energy-efficient insulation around the exterior walls and roof, meeting current Florida Building Code energy requirements. Since it was very recently completed, Martin County High School's Administration and Classroom Building has an impact rated thermal window system around the building exterior. MCSD also saves energy by operating on a four-day per week schedule in the heat of June and July.

Several of the District's schools conduct activities through their Green Teams or Environmental Clubs including: Litter Free Lunch; No Idle Zones for vehicles; Bike to School promotions; Rain Barrels; and School Gardens.

The District utilizes a 2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid for its Superintendent's Office, saving approximately 30% on gas usage and cost for this vehicle as compared to a non-hybrid.

Describe how your district is improving water quality, efficiency and conservation. Examples may include decrease in domestic water use, irrigation water use, reduction of storm water run-off, native landscaping, rainwater cisterns and/or rain barrels.

All school sites try to limit disruption of natural hydrology by reducing impervious cover, increasing on-site infiltration, reducing or eliminating pollution from storm water runoff and eliminating contaminants.

All school sites maintain a South Florida Water Permit. The Permit is required to weigh whether the proposed activity will, among other things:

- Cause adverse flooding to on-site or off-site property
- Cause adverse water quality and quantity impacts
- Cause adverse impacts to wetlands, fish or wildlife

- Adversely affect public health, safety and welfare
- Impair navigation or surface water flows
- Adversely affect nearby fishing or recreational uses
- Impact wetlands.

As school sites were developed, focus was on landscaping that is non-invasive, native plantings, and/ or non-exotics. Exotics migrating to school sites are noted and are removed.

Describe how your district is reducing waste production. Examples may include green purchasing, using post-consumer material office paper; reusable lunch trays; hands-free dryers; composting; 3R programs; reduced number of garbage dumpsters, green cleaning products, e-newsletter, ecologically beneficial uses of grounds; and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes.

Waste Management provides comprehensive solid waste and recyclable materials collection and disposal/processing services to the Martin County School District under an agreement providing for same. In concert with School District staff, WM has implemented an aggressive reduction and recycling initiative that empowers each facility to reduce, reuse and recycle, year round. Recycling receptacles for class rooms (eighteen gallon bins) and sixty-four gallon mobile carts are deployed throughout the School District facilities to capture all that can be separated and efficiently recycled, reducing the need for solid waste collection and associated costs. Since 2016, Waste Management has conducted on-site audits by working with the staff of each facility and measuring the diversion and capture rates and reassessing when needed.

Currently, MCSD is diverting 35% of materials from solid waste resulting in avoided disposal costs, reduction in the District’s carbon footprint, and contributing to preservation of valuable landfill air space. To date, the Martin County School District is generating approximately 3,896 cubic yards of waste materials and 1,370 cubic yards per month of Single-Stream (comingled materials – all fiber and plastic, aluminum and glass) from each facility.

Amount of waste production saved (calculated in cubic yards):
32,880 cubic yards single stream comingled recyclables

Describe how your district is using alternative transportation. Examples may include compact natural gas busses, hybrid vehicles, carpool program, parking designated for fuel efficient vehicles, percentage of student and staff walk/bike to and from school.

Several of the District’s schools conduct activities through their Green Teams or Environmental Clubs including No Idle Zones for vehicles and Bike to School promotions. At Crystal Lake Elementary, Ride Your Bike to School Day 2019 was organized by the School Resource Officer. Crystal Lake students and parents were joined on their ride by several Martin County Sheriff’s Office deputies. MCSD also participates in National Walk to School Day.

Martin County School District has a fleet of approximately 100 school buses fueled by ultra-low

Sulphur diesel. This new diesel technology – available since 2010 – was chosen because it is clean and green, its engines run efficiently, the infrastructure to support its use is already in place, and the vehicles are affordable. The District utilizes a 2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid for its Superintendent’s Office, saving approximately 30% on gas usage and cost for this vehicle as compared to a non- hybrid.

Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Describe how your district improves the health and wellness of students and staff by implementing a school environmental health program. Include integrated pest management, contaminant controls and ventilation, asthma controls, indoor air quality, moisture control, and chemical management.

Martin County School District consistently conducts integrated pest management and requires its pest control vendors to utilize IPM recommendations. These include the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment.

Local ventilation is provided in any science classroom where this may be an issue for students and staff during experiments that might involve fumes or gases present and/or formed as part of chemical reactions. Maintenance, Facilities, and Grounds staff likewise are trained in safety precautions relating to contaminant controls and ventilation.

The District utilizes at least two methods for controlling asthma. First, students identified with asthma are eligible for an Individual Education Plan (IEP) evaluation. Once an IEP is approved, all relevant staff at the school are notified of the conditions of the IEP for those students. Any asthma triggers are removed from the student’s space. The District also employs the EPA Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality Program (IAQ) to identify any asthma triggers and to maintain a safe and healthful school environment. State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) are rigorously followed to ensure that all building products, systems and materials used in MCSD locations comply with the fire code as well as the building code to reduce or eliminate any asthma. Regular and annual inspections are conducted to identify any conditions, products or equipment that may affect the indoor air quality of any particular building or room. Products such as unapproved ozone machines, ionizers, deodorizers, essential oils or air fresheners are not permitted in schools and are removed when identified. The School District has a Certified Indoor Air Quality Professional (CIAQP) that leads a team from Facilities, Maintenance and AC Controls Technicians when conducting inspections and investigations of IAQ complaints.

Moisture Control is also of great importance given Martin County’s location in coastal South Florida and the District improves the health and wellness of students and staff by again following guidelines provided by the EPA Tools for Schools IAQ Program. Conditions such as temperature, humidity levels and dew point, water intrusion, roof and window leaks are

identified and repaired on a timely basis.

In terms of chemical management, School Laboratories maintain an inventory of lab chemicals for experiments and these chemicals are securely stored and disposed of properly. Cleaning chemicals are continually evaluated for effectiveness and safety and are controlled by school maintenance staff in specific concentrations in order to be safe, effective, and economical. These chemicals are stored securely and are generally available for staff use in limited concentrations and amounts using clearly labeled containers. Each school maintains a list of Safety Data Sheets (SDS), with access to SDS through the internet. New products are required to have both the specifications sheets and SDSs provided prior to their approval for use by Risk Management. Waste chemicals are properly stored and labeled prior to disposal and qualified and licensed vendors are used to transport, store and dispose of waste generated by school operations and/or laboratories.

Describe policies, practices and procedures your district has in place to support the Coordinated School Health or Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) approach. Examples may include completed Florida Healthy School District Assessment and/or recognition, innovative district wellness, physical education, and bullying prevention policies.

In its Mental Wellness Plan for 2019-20, the Martin County School District describes how it leverages student-led programs and community partnerships while building the capacity of school-based mental health professionals. The Department of Student Services outlines a comprehensive set of 27 programs that help students in all grades develop appropriate cognitive, behavioral, and emotional skills. The majority of these are evidence-based and several emphasize bullying prevention (Anti-Bullying Week, Restorative Practices, Safe School Ambassadors, and Sandy Hook Promise). Another county-wide initiative is Carry Yourself with Confidence, which emphasizes student recognition of positive attributes in themselves and others. Performances of the musical *Speak Life to End Bullying* recently brought district-wide attention to the impact of bullying and how it can be stopped. Held at each high school, *Speak Life* was attended by an audience of several thousand local students and family members. The wider community was also invited to attend this free performance.

Students are supported by School Social Services Workers, the Behavior Team, Individual Student Safety Assessment Plans, and collaboration with entities such as the Martin County Health and Human Services Department and contracted local mental health providers – Tykes & Teens, Helping People Succeed, Suncoast Behavioral Health, Sequel Care, and Legacy Behavioral Health—among others. The District’s Multi-Tiered System of Support spans thru 12th grade and staff is working with the University of South Florida to build a strong system of support for all students.

Pursuant to State law and Florida Department of Education curriculum standards, comprehensive health education and physical education are provided as required. The District works in conjunction with the Martin County Health Department as appropriate and necessary to provide all health screenings and monitor required health records.

District Fitness Initiatives include intramural teams in basketball, volleyball, soccer, cheerleading, flag, and dance. Every middle school student participates in the annual Kyle Conrad Track Meet and every elementary school student participates in the annual Russell Holloway Track Meet. There are running clubs and bike clubs at various schools and students participate in Walk to School Day, Favorite Exercise Day (supported by local fitness businesses), Jump for LOVE (a fitness fundraiser for a local child), and bicycle safety events. Health and safety are emphasized during Healthy Snack Day, Gardening Clubs held after school, and CPR Training provided for 6th grades during physical education classes.

The Martin County School District completed the Florida Healthy School District Assessment in 2018, achieving Silver Status.

The Food and Nutrition Services Department plays an important role in promoting student health and wellness district-wide as evidenced in its Mission Statement - "Providing the resources to nourish student success." Noting that education and healthy options are key when it comes to managing Type 2 diabetes, FNS recently produced a video for parents to use as a guide to assist with school meal choices for diabetic children. It is readily accessible on the District's website.

The Martin County School District offers an Employee Wellness Program to improve the health and well-being of employees and their dependents. Employees are provided with educational information, fun contests and activities, and preventive screenings in order to improve their health and incorporate healthier lifestyle options. Short term goals include encouraging healthy lifestyle choices; improving employee morale; increasing on-the-job mindfulness, decision making, and productivity; and improving disease management skills/treatments. Long Term goals include increasing satisfaction in the eight dimensions of wellness; reducing paid claims under the District's medical insurance; decreasing absenteeism and lost time; and reducing staff turnover. Designated Wellness Ambassadors are employees who promote District-sponsored programs that encourage good health and improve quality of life while serving as liaisons between the Building Healthy Lifestyles coordinators and department/school staff.

All MCSD schools have an active School Advisory Board with a presence on school websites. Title I schools each have a parent liaison who is a Board member and each Head Start center has an active Parent Council. School Board Members and District staff serve on the Boards of dozens of community groups. There are established relationships with all local municipalities, law enforcement organizations, state offices such as the Florida Department of Health, and the Children's Services Council of Martin County.

Pillar III: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the relationships between dynamic environmental, energy and human systems. Examples may include innovative environmental and sustainability curriculum (instruction and assessment); district environmental education

programs and opportunities; career pathways; professional development for faculty and staff; and extra-curricular activities.

The District provides a Career and Technical Education program at the high school level in Landscape Operations, leading to a certification by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association as a Certified Horticultural Professional. Coursework and onsite career experiences prepare students for post-secondary training as well as employment opportunities in the field. Environmental and sustainability topics are important program elements. In October 2019, South Fork High School's Landscape Operations and Turfgrass Management Teacher was named one of three national winners of Harbor Freight's "Tools for Schools" Prize for Teaching Excellence. With lessons covering general agriculture and horticulture principles as well as design, installation, maintenance and mechanics, her classroom spans 75 acres and includes a three-hole golf course, a workshop, an equipment barn, a nursery and an orchard. In a county with more than 160 golf courses, this teacher helps her students develop the skills necessary to find green career opportunities close to home.

Additional CTE Programs include Project Lead the Way-Engineering Pathways, which engages students in interdisciplinary activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices or robotic arms, or exploring algae as a biofuel source. These activities not only build knowledge and skills in engineering, but also empower students to develop essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, and collaboration. This is an important Career Pathway as the Palm Beach/Treasure Coast community is an area that is home to major businesses and research facilities such as Pratt Whitney, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and Lockheed Martin.

High school students in the Martin County School District also participate in the Regional and Florida Envirothons. Focusing on field experiences, students work in teams of five, using critical thinking and communications skills and developing problem-solving abilities to answer written and oral questions and conduct hands-on investigations. There are five study areas: aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The Regional competition adds one additional local subject area – ecology of the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most biodiverse estuaries in the continental United States.

RiverKidz provides second grade students with a standards-based curriculum that increases their understanding of the community's ecosystem and encourages them to become active in preserving local waterways. These are important lessons for Martin County, where water-based tourism is a key industry - the Gulf Stream is just offshore, Stuart is known as the Sailfish Capital of the World, and the area has 20 marinas, a dozen fishing/sightseeing charters, and numerous bait and tackle shops. Recent algae blooms in the coastal waters due to discharges from Lake Okeechobee have had a devastating effect on Martin County's natural environment, making it critical for young students to learn about their roles as environmental stewards.

The Education Foundation of Martin County has supported the creation of Robotics Teams at all grade levels – elementary, middle, and high school – as part of its efforts to Promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and the Arts).

Demonstrate how your district uses the environment and sustainability as a context for learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics content, knowledge and thinking skills.

All students from Kindergarten through 7th grade, as well as high school marine and environmental science classes, visit the Environmental Studies Center to participate in hands-on environmental education. Students explore the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon, Hutchinson Island's beaches, mangrove swamps, freshwater ponds, and wetlands. They receive instruction in the Center's indoor and outdoor interactive classrooms, science labs and museum, and, at different grade levels, experience ESC's floating classroom, *The River Scout*, a 30' T-Craft boat. Prior to their Center visit, each class spends 1-2 weeks studying curriculum that introduces the concepts to be investigated in the field, correlates to Florida State Standards, and reflects real-world application of scientific processes.

Each summer the Center offers Camp WET (Water, Environment, Technology) for students entering 5th and 6th grade with the goals of raising environmental awareness, increasing knowledge of natural habitats, and developing sustainable behaviors among students and their families. Valued at \$400 per participant, this two-week camp costs only \$100 thanks to generous grant funders.

Annually the District's fourth grade teachers participate in Professional Development using The Everglades Foundation Curriculum so that they can provide students with a hands-on environmental learning opportunity. Additional community collaboration takes place courtesy of Florida Power and Light (FPL), which sponsors in-school presentations by Captain Wattage and provides Solar Stations for several schools. Inwater Research Group, Inc. provides free experiential conservation education through their traveling Turtle Trunk Program, which includes items that pique student interest – sea turtle skull replicas and models, biological tools, etc. – while covering important statewide benchmarks. Inwater also sponsors and encourages student participation in #SeaTurtlesRock, a social media campaign that raises awareness about sea turtle nesting season through art, education, and community involvement. Martin County School District's Hobe Sound Elementary School is the first in the nation to be a fully certified Audubon Sanctuary Program. In conjunction with the Hobe Sound Nature Center, HES uses environmental education and conservation efforts in its quest for students to become environmental stewards. The District is also the first in Florida to have a partnership with Publix Corporation on the Plastic Bag Initiative. Bags are collected at schools and offices for recycling and students learn about the negative effects plastic has on waterways and marine life while they develop skills as program leaders.

Students4H2O was established with the mission of enhancing education, stewardship, and citizenship for the Martin County community. Their vision is "We believe every individual matters and a sustainable community will, in turn, lead to a sustainable planet by following the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By doing so, we strive to empower children to save the earth, one student at a time." This is a District-wide effort and students in all grades

are invited to participate.

MCS D provides awards in the special Environmental Science category during Annual Science Fairs. Several of the District's schools also conduct activities through their Green Teams or Environmental Clubs including: Litter Free Lunch; No Idle Zones for vehicles; Bike to School promotions; Rain Barrels; and School Gardens.

Describe how your district promotes civic/community engagement projects integrating environmental and sustainability topics (green technologies, career pathways, civic skills, community partnerships).

Each year the Martin County School District's Students4H2O are actively involved in planning and implementing Waterfest. Held in conjunction with the City of Stuart and the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, this free community-wide event promotes awareness of water conservation and environmental stewardship. Hundreds of Festival goers visit booths staffed by environmental professionals, local educators and peers, rising leaders, and utility personnel who provide interactive environmental lessons, demonstrations, contests, and games. Students4H2O has also collaborated with the United Way of Martin County's Character Counts! Program to recognize students, staff members, teachers, and schools who demonstrate good character.

Coordinated by Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center and supported by the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin County, the Green Schools Recognition Program honors local schools that have taken a holistic and innovative approach to greening their campuses and academic programs. The rigorous scoring rubric for this program includes: School Grounds Enhancement; School Sustainability; Health and Well-Being; Curriculum Integration; Community Involvement; and School-Wide Culture. For the 2018-2019 school year, Martin County had 4 Green Schools of Promise, 2 Green Schools of Quality, and 7 Green Schools of Excellence. Five Judges Choice Awards were also received, including the Garden Club and Bright Start Awards and recognition for Community Involvement, Outstanding Environmental Education, and Best Butterfly Learning Garden.

The Environmental Studies Center, located along the Indian River Lagoon, started life as the Jensen Beach Elementary School in the 1930s and was re-purposed by the Martin County School District in 1972 to serve as both a learning lab for students as well as an educational destination for the public. Supported by the Environmental Studies Council, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, the Center has the Wet Lab, classroom exhibits, and a new sea turtle exhibit. A live juvenile alligator, "Joey," and his tiki-hut covered habitat have been added to the campus, as has a Native Plant Butterfly Garden. High school students participating in the EarthSavers Crew volunteer at the Center on projects such as Mangrove Restoration, Labeling Hammock Trails, and Fish and Bird Counts. Students from all grades are encouraged to participate in Center-led activities such as the Youth Driven Cinema and the International Coastal Cleanup, often receiving credit for their efforts from their teachers.

Team Green Martin is designed as a school-based program that brings together students in both ESE programs and General Education classrooms to work towards conservation goals and environmental preservation by focusing on recycling. MCSD students recently participated in America Recycles Day (sponsored nationally by Keep America Beautiful) to educate family, friends, and neighbors about the importance of recycling.

The District regularly uses its website and social media outlets to educate and inform staff, students, families, and the community about environmental concerns, green priorities, and opportunities to participate in related activities.