



## School Nominee Presentation Form

### ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

#### School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools 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 education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing 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. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole 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.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. 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 public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school 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

Public  Charter  Title I  Magnet  Private  Independent  Rural

Name of Principal: **Kathleen McKiernan**

Official School Name: **Switlik Elementary School**

Official School Name Mailing Address: **75 West Veterans Hwy, Jackson NJ 08527**

County: **Ocean** State School Code Number \*: **29-2360-050**

Telephone: **732-833-4650** Fax: **732-833-4672**

Web site/URL: **<http://www.jacksonsd.org/switlik>** E-mail: **kmckiernan@jacksonsd.org**

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

(Principal's Signature)

Date: **January 19, 2021**

Name of Superintendent: **Mrs. Nicole Pormilli**



District Name: **Jackson Township School District**

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

(Superintendent's Signature)

Date: **Jan. 19, 2021**

### **Nominating Authority's Certifications**

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

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school 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 and sustainability education.
3. The school 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: **New Jersey Department of Education**

Name of Nominating Authority: **Bernard E. Piaia, Jr.**

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

Date: **March 1, 2021**

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

### **SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

Provide a coherent summary that describes how your school is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars. Then, include concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element. Only schools that document progress in every Pillar and Element can be considered for this award.

### **SUBMISSION**

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to [green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov](mailto:green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov) according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

### **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](mailto: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.



**District and School Contact and Other Information**

School Name: Switlik Elementary School District: Jackson

Street Address: 75 East Veterans HWY

City: Jackson State: NJ Zip: 08527

Website: www.jacksonsd.org Facebook page: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Name: Kathleen McKiernan

Principal Email Address: kmckiernan@jacksonsd.org Phone Number/Ext.: 732-833-4600

Lead Applicant Name (if different): John Blair

Lead Applicant Email: jblair@jacksonsd.org Phone Number/Ext.: 732-833-4600 ext 4380

<b>Level</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Early Learning Center <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elementary (PK - 5 or 6) <input type="checkbox"/> K - 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Middle (6 - 8 or 9) <input type="checkbox"/> High (9 or 10 - 12)	<b>School Type</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private/Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Charter	<b>How would you describe your school?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural	<b>District Name</b> <u>Jackson</u> Largest 50 Districts in the nation? ( )Y (x )N
			# FTE* Enrolled: 749 # Sch. Buildings: <u>1</u> *Full Time Equivalent
Does your school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	% receiving FRPL <u>24</u> % limited English proficient <u>0</u> % minority <u>23</u>	Graduation rate: <u>100%</u> Attendance rate: _____	

**Documentation of Sustainability Achievement**

**Narrative for Pillar I: Your Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs**

Constructed in 1948, Switlik Elementary School is the oldest building in the Jackson School District and has weathered constant usage of thousands of students and staff over the past seventy plus years. However, panther pride runs rampant throughout the building. This is evident not only through the academic programs, but also through reductions of environmental impact and improved health and wellness. For these efforts, Switlik was awarded a 2019 Silver Certification through Sustainable Jersey for Schools, only one of nineteen schools in N.J. that have received this recognition.

The school's sustainability efforts are strongly supported by the Board of Education. Evidence of this can be seen through the Sustainability Policy, Energy Policy, and an Energy Plan that is updated and approved annually. In the fall of 2016, Switlik introduced the district implemented behavior-based energy conservation program and reduce energy consumption by 16% and over \$2.5 million in energy budget expenses over the past 4 years. Energy use is tracked through ESPM, Wegowise, and TeamView the school is enrolled in an annual Demand Response program through PJM, the local grid. In 2017, the school conducted a Local Government Energy Audit through the NJ Clean Energy Program which

identified areas of the building needing updates for better performance. The recommended improvements are currently being implemented as part of a \$26,000,000 district wide Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP). The amount of energy savings generated will create a net-zero cost to the taxpayers and to date the school has installed a new roof, new insulation, plug load controls on large equipment, high efficiency transformers, new Unit Ventilators in every classroom, installed new LED lighting, and replaced the boiler. In 2021, a 317kW solar array will be added on the new roof replacing the amount of electricity we consume from the grid by over 42%. This is in addition to the 10% green energy currently purchased from the grid via an electricity supply contract. The array will also have a monitoring device that can be accessed by students and staff so they can see firsthand how much energy is saved. Also, chromebooks used in all of our classrooms are charged via plug load reduction devices that shut down during unoccupied hours. The current Energy Star score is 96 (2020) and one of the school's goals is to be an Energy Star Partner.

The school is currently awaiting the result of a grant that we wrote to provide 8 EV School Buses and 2 Refuse Trucks for our district fleet. If granted, these trucks will be charged with 100% solar power from the new arrays in the district. The district has constructed a new Transportation Facility that has significantly reduced the number of miles buses are on the road. This is extremely important as Jackson is over 100 square miles and busses over 90% of the student population. The school also has a well-publicized No Idling Program and a Safe Routes to School Program that are part of our Sustainability Policy.

The well water has backflow preventers and a filtration system. Every year, the drinking water is tested for lead and the results are posted on the website. All copy paper is PEFC Certified and is part of the manufacturer's "Green Range". Hazardous waste is reduced or eliminated through:

- Green Seal Certified Cleaning Products – 100%
- Green Cleaning Policy and Plan
- Green Cleaning Equipment – Square Scrub (Uses water instead of stripper to remove wax from floors)
- Green Cleaning Training and Education program
- Green Purchasing Policy
- 100% Compliance with NJDEP Air Quality Permit requirement
- Hazardous Waste Policy and Cleanup Program
- Chemical Hygiene and Disposal Plan
- Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage, and Disposal Policy
- Medical waste (syringes, etc) is collected by our nurse and then sent to the High School nurse. It is then discarded properly with all of the other schools' medical waste.
- 100% Compliance with our District's E-Cycle disposal program for our electronic devices that are no longer useful.
- Safety Data Sheets are available in the Main Office for every product we use as part of compliance with NJ Right to Know rules and regulations.

Rather than outsource waste pick-up, recycled materials are collected by a District owned truck weekly and a separate truck collects solid waste twice a week. On average, Switlik recycles about 1500 lbs. monthly including after school and recreation activities. The school has several grade level assemblies throughout the year to instruct students and staff on proper single stream recycling. The school also has 2 filtered water bottle filling stations which to date eliminated 18,000 single use water bottles. Also, dry erase markers are sent to Crayola as part of their Colorcycle program.

Reducing use of plastic is also a big part of the school culture and climate. This year students collected over 20 pounds of dry erase markers for recycling as part of the Crayola Colorcycle program. Teamed up with 2 other schools along with the Township Recycling department, the school collected 500 pounds of plastic bags and had those recycled with the Trex Company. A park bench was made out of the material in our name because of this wonderfully successful program. Also during this past year, the received a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools to construct a school greenhouse and install 2 water bottle filling stations. These stations have so far reduced our use of plastic bottles by over 18,000 so far!

## **Narrative for Pillar 2: Your Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff**

The Operations and Maintenance Policy ensures that all of our students and staff are provided with a safe environment to engage in the teaching and learning process. The Integrated Pest Management Plan is updated on a yearly basis. All

Maintenance and Custodial staff adhere to the policies and practices in this plan and are trained on an annual basis. There is no smoking on school grounds/buses, and no use of pesticides. Construction is conducted at night and is immediately cleaned by staff to ensure minimal exposure occupants. The staff also performs daily moisture inspection in all of our classrooms and any needed actions are done immediately. Unit Ventilators are inspected regularly, filters are changed every 3 months, and adhere to ASHRAE Standard 62.1 by exchanging the air in the room with outside air within every 45 minutes at maximum capacity. Every year, the entire staff is required to attend our District run NJ Right to Know/District Safety/Sustainability program.

Any student that is identified as having asthma or allergies is communicated to the teacher and a meeting is held with the nurse to identify an action plan. Students are given inhalers before all physical activities and asthma medications are held in the nurse's office in conjunction with an Asthma Action Plan.

The School Climate Team that meets throughout the year to cover Anti-Bullying, Peer Counseling, and overall school climate. Other teams include the School Safety Team, Green Team, School Improvement Panel, School Wellness Committee, and a newly formed COVID Team. The Principal is a member of the District Safety Team and we also have a school wellness policy that addresses both nutrition and physical activity.

It is Board Policy that physical activity is to be promoted in our school. At least 50% of our student's Physical Education takes place outdoors during the school year. This does not include the numerous amounts of time that the teachers provide to engage in recess and structured play. Two Gaga Ball Pits were recently construction with help from the school's Parent Teacher Network. The kids love it!

Participation in The Department of Defense Local Farms food program ensures that as much locally grown food reaches our school as possible. Students are provided with breakfast and allowed to consume it in class after the bell rings. Through the Food Service Department's Choose My Plate program, students are also encouraged to make healthy choices beyond the cafeteria throughout the day at school and at home.

The school is dedicated to supporting student's mental wellness. A full-time school counselor runs various school groups and activities to promote mental health as well as running anti-bullying programs. Every week, our entire school participates in Mindfulness Monday and some of our grades participate in a program called Yoga Calm. These activities prepare the students early in the day for an exciting day of learning. The school nurse provides students with health lessons several times a year. The school collaborates with several outside groups to enhance school climate and provide students with some wonderful learning experiences. Some of these activities include:

- Visitations by the Ocean County Health Department
- Jackson Police Safety Assembly
- DARE Program
- Jackson Fire Department Smokehouse Program
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Jackson Township Recycling
- Slim Goodbody
- Jackson Recreation Department

### **Narrative for Pillar 3: Your Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

Switlik's teaching staff meets on a regular basis to share lessons on sustainability and the Green Team has presented at events like the NJ School Boards Association's Convention on several occasions. Themes of energy efficiency and environmental friendliness are threaded throughout the school and curriculum. In addition, the district recently won an award for having an outstanding Elementary Science Program and the curriculum map is posted on the school website.

The school district maps all k-12 curricula through a program called Atlas. Students in K-5 engage in a science curriculum centered around STEM principles and environmental design including unit design challenges to incorporate engineering principles. The rigorous science curriculum is designed to help prepare students eventually entering the STEM Academy at the High School level. Starting in kindergarten, students learn the life cycle of a chicken by observing a classroom

incubation chamber for eggs. The students look forward to holding the chicks once hatched. First grade students are visited by the Alliance to Save Energy PowerSave School's Energy Hog. Fourth grade students gave presentations on different types of energy to the District Energy Specialist and reviewed actions taken by the district to lower its carbon footprint in a session recorded and later shown on the community's local TV channel. All students attend the Barnegat Bay Watershed Festival and participate in outdoors lessons in the courtyard. School-wide assemblies organized by the Green Team include the Energy Hog's focus on reducing energy through behavioral changes and multiple assemblies on recycling. The art teachers demonstrates upcycling with wood chopped in half from a local karate school and has all grade levels create artwork from recyclable materials. The staff reviews sustainability components at staff meetings and selects field trips related to the environment including Jenkinson's Aquarium, Insectropolis (An interactive insect museum), and the Philadelphia Zoo.

### **Summary Narrative: An Overview of Your Work Encompassing All Three Pillars**

Constructed in 1948, Switlik Elementary School is the oldest building in the Jackson School District. In the fall of 2016, our district implemented a district wide behavior-based energy conservation program and reduced energy consumption by 16% equating to \$2.5Mil over the past four years with an Energy Star rating of 96. The school is in the process of installing several energy efficient upgrades to the building for further reductions of environmental impact including new LED lighting fixtures and retrofits, a new solar array system on the roof of our school, plug load controls for photocopiers and other electronic equipment, destratification fans in our gymnasium, a new HVAC control system, new unit ventilators in the classrooms, and 2 new energy efficient boilers.

This year Switlik recycled over 20 pounds of dry erase markers through Crayola's Colorcycle program. In addition, 500 pounds of plastic bags were used to create a park bench through the Trex Recycling Program. The school received a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant to construct a greenhouse and install 2 water bottle filling stations averting 18,000 plastic water bottles to date.

Every year, Switlik enters the Barnegat Bay Rain Barrel competition and was crowned champion 3 years in a row from 2016 to 2018. The rain barrels collect water for the beautiful gardens, courtyard and outdoor learning center which serves as home for the school's turtles.

The district sends monthly Wellness Matters newsletter to staff and sponsored several weight loss competitions over the past few years. Students participate in healthy mind and body activities including Yoga Calm, obstacle course, GaGa ball pit, and the annual health expo focused on healthy eating choices. Indoor air quality and thermal control is a top priority for our Maintenance staff with only Green Seal Certified cleaning products used, and the school has a well-documented integrated pest management program. Busses are not allowed to idle in the parking lot during drop off or pick-up times.