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## OCPS recognized for green innovation

The Florida Department of Education has recognized Orange County Public Schools for its innovative green schools program.

OCPS received high marks based on its commitment to reducing environmental impacts, improving the health and academic performance of students and staff and increasing the number of graduates who are environmentally and sustainability

literate.

The recognition results from the district's application for the annual Green Ribbon Schools Award sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

Highlights from Orange County's application include: the district's 14 green schools designed and built to Green Globe, LEED or Florida Green Building Coalition standards; the EPA's September 2013 Great Start Award

to OCPS recognizing its indoor air-quality program; the district's recycling program, which generates about \$200,000 annually and last year kept 172,000 cubic yards of waste out of landfills; and the \$1.5 million OCPS has earned in energy rebates over the past 17 months as a result of energy-efficient design and operations. This revenue is funding OCPS's Green Schools Recognition Program.