



## Pathways to Green Schools



# Green Schools: A Common Agenda



- Increase in the quantity and rigor of school sustainability
- Ensure that student environmental literacy is central to green schools, along with a broader set of themes (student health, building and grounds environmental impact, etc.)
- Improved coordination across green school programs to increase efficiency and impact

# What the Current Opportunity



- Goal 3 of Mid Atlantic Environmental Literacy Strategy
  - *“Every school in the region maintains its buildings, grounds, and operation to support positive environmental and human health outcomes”*
- Sustainable school outcome in new Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement
  - *“Outcome: Support and highlight models of sustainable schools and local education agencies using system wide approaches for environmental education”*
- Heighted awareness of green school resulting from Green Ribbon School recognition program

# Guiding Questions for this Session



- How can different Green School programs coordinate to improve impacts we hope to achieve?
- What opportunities has the Green Ribbon School program created in your state?
- Are there common criteria that green school rating programs should have to meet shared outcomes of sustainable schools?
- What are management practices that Green School rating/cert programs should be adhering to?
- How can federal and state agencies, as well as the formal education community, support green school efforts?

# Collective Impact



Condition		Mid Atlantic Region
<b>Common Agenda</b>	All participants have a shared vision for change, a common understanding of the problem, and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions. Funders can play an important role in getting organizations to act in concert.	Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy; Chesapeake Bay Program Goals
<b>Shared Measurement</b>	Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable	Chesapeake Bay Program indicator/metrics
<b>Mutually Reinforcing Activities</b>	Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action	Green Ribbon Schools, State and NGO green school programs (USGBC, NWF, PLT, PA Pathways, MAEOE, etc)
<b>Continuous Communication</b>	Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and appreciate common motivation	Mid Atlantic Environmental Education Workgroup (Green Schools working group?)
<b>Backbone Support</b>	Creating and managing collective impact requires a separate organization with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinate participating organizations and agencies	Green School staff. NOAA Chesapeake Bay staff and funding, Chesapeake Bay Trust staff and funding, CBP Education staffer.