

Dear Rainbow Reps,

On behalf of Community Allies of Rainbow Youth (CARY), your school is invited to begin the Rainbow Ribbon Schools application process this school year. Here are some of the benefits of applying:

- Have fun collaborating with colleagues. (SLO artifacts guaranteed!)
- Examine your school culture and make improvements based on student feedback
- Build community through rainbow events and programs
- Show the world that the HCPSS values our LGBTQIA+ students
- Ensure that your LGBTQIA+ students are seen, heard, and included. It's all about the kids!

Your school will have up to three years to complete your application by demonstrating the Rainbow Ribbon Schools criteria. CARY has four HCPSS educators, all from Rainbow Ribbon Schools, available to advise you along the way: Paul Carpenetti and Amy Urban (elementary liaisons), and Robyn Page and Amy Holly (secondary liaisons). If you are unsure of the time commitment, we hope you'll take a look at these Rainbow Ribbon artifacts and applications. Your school is most likely already meeting multiple criteria and could earn stripes or a ribbon this school year!

Intent to apply forms are due October 16, 2025. Schools that are in years 2 or 3 of the application process, or are renewing their ribbons in 2026, should also complete this form to let us know you'll continue working toward your Rainbow Ribbon or renewing your Ribbon.

If you have any questions, please contact the liaisons for your school level. We are happy to help!

Thank you for all that you do for your school!

Gemma Holgate, CARY President

Robyn Page, Rainbow Ribbon Liaison

Greetings!

On behalf of CARY, we are very excited your school has indicated an interest in applying for a Rainbow Ribbon this year! We encourage you to share the RRS presentation with your entire staff to involve everyone in the application process.

Now is the time to schedule your first consultation with one of the Rainbow Ribbon liaisons listed below to get your application off to a great start! We will provide advice and feedback to make the application process as smooth as possible. Plan on meeting with one of us via a 20 minute Google Meet. You will also need to schedule one focus group this school year with Danielle DuPuis. The focus group can be scheduled any time after your first liaison consultation.

Your Rainbow Ribbon application is due May 8, 2026. There are two options for application submission: a Table of Contents style Google doc or a Google slides presentation. Both of these and more have been shared with you in a Google Folder. This folder also has a video to help you get started. We encourage you to add content to the application as the school year progresses. You should use this application checklist to track your progress. Be sure to redact names from student work samples and obtain permission for any images featuring students. Examples from schools that have earned Rainbow Ribbons and stripes for many of the criteria are available for you to view if you need ideas.

**Here is a 'to do' list to get you through first quarter:**

1. Share the RRS slide presentation with school staff and let them know how they can support the application process
2. Meet with a RRS liaison to review the application requirements and plan for documentation
3. Schedule a focus group with Danielle DuPuis

Throughout the year, please don't hesitate to reach out to us for assistance. We are happy to take a phone call or Google Meet with you and your RRS team if you need a

sounding board. CARY wants the Rainbow Ribbon application process to be joyful and affirming for everyone involved.

On behalf of Community Allies of Rainbow Youth:

Gemma Holgate (CARY President) - [president@cary-hoco.org](mailto:president@cary-hoco.org)

Paul Carpenetti (elementary liaison) - [Paul\\_Carpenetti@hcpss.org](mailto:Paul_Carpenetti@hcpss.org)

Amy Urban (elementary liaison) - [Amy\\_Urban@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy_Urban@hcpss.org)

Amy Holly (secondary liaison) - [Amy\\_Holly@hcpss.org](mailto:Amy_Holly@hcpss.org)

Robyn Page (secondary liaison) - [Robyn\\_Page@hcpss.org](mailto:Robyn_Page@hcpss.org)

# Rainbow Ribbon Schools Initiative: Intent to Apply 2025-26

Please complete this form to indicate your school's intent to apply for Rainbow Ribbon Schools recognition for the 2025-26 school year. This form closes October 16, 2025.

\* Indicates required question

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- 1. Email \*

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2. Your school: \*

 Dropdown

*Mark only one oval.*

- Applications and Research Laboratory
- Atholton Elementary
- Atholton High
- Bellows Spring Elementary
- Bollman Bridge Elementary
- Bonnie Branch Middle
- Bryant Woods Elementary
- Burleigh Manor Middle
- Bushy Park Elementary
- Cedar Lane Special Center
- Centennial High
- Centennial Lane Elementary
- Clarksville Elementary
- Clarksville Middle
- Clemens Crossing Elementary
- Cradlerock Elementary

- Dayton Oaks Elementary
- Deep Run Elementary
- Digital Education Center
- Ducketts Lane Elementary
- Dunloggin Middle
- Elkridge Elementary
- Elkridge Landing Middle
- Ellicott Mills Middle
- Folly Quarter Middle
- Forest Ridge Elementary
- Fulton Elementary
- Glenelg High
- Glenwood Middle
- Gorman Crossing Elementary
- Guilford Elementary
- Guilford Park High
- Hammond Elementary
- Hammond High

- Hammond Middle
- Hanover Hills Elementary
- Harpers Choice Middle
- Hollifield Station Elementary
- Homewood School
- Howard High
- Ilchester Elementary
- Innovative Pathways
- Jeffers Hill Elementary
- Lake Elkhorn Middle
- Laurel Woods Elementary
- Lime Kiln Middle
- Lisbon Elementary
- Long Reach High
- Longfellow Elementary
- Manor Woods Elementary
- Marriotts Ridge High
- Mayfield Woods Middle

- Mount Hebron High
- Mount View Middle
- Murray Hill Middle
- Northfield Elementary
- Oakland Mills High
- Oakland Mills Middle
- Patapsco Middle
- Patuxent Valley Middle
- Phelps Luck Elementary
- Pointers Run Elementary
- Reservoir High
- River Hill High
- Rockburn Elementary
- Running Brook Elementary
- St. Johns Lane Elementary
- Stevens Forest Elementary
- Swansfield Elementary
- Talbott Springs Elementary

- Thomas Viaduct Middle
- Thunder Hill Elementary
- Triadelphia Ridge Elementary
- Veterans Elementary
- Waterloo Elementary
- Waverly Elementary
- West Friendship Elementary
- Wilde Lake High
- Wilde Lake Middle
- Worthington Elementary

3. Your name (first and last) \*

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4. Your pronouns \*

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5. Please check the roles that apply to you: \*

*Check all that apply.*

- teacher
- administrator
- counselor
- media specialist
- parent
- Rainbow Representative
- GSA/SAGA/LGBTQIA+ affinity group facilitator
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your principal's email address \*

\_\_\_\_\_

7. By checking the box below you are indicating that your school intends to initiate or continue with a Rainbow Ribbon School application, or apply for renewal of your Rainbow Ribbon, during the 2025-26 school year. Schools have three consecutive years to complete the initial Rainbow Ribbon application process. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- We intend to begin a Rainbow Ribbon Schools application in the 2025-26 school year.
- We are continuing with the Rainbow Ribbon Schools application process during the 2025-26 school year.
- We are a 2023 Rainbow Ribbon School and are applying for renewal during the 2025-26 school year.

We encourage you to use this [application checklist](#) to get started on your application. All schools are required to participate in two meetings with a Rainbow Ribbon liaison during the application process: one first semester and one second semester. You will be contacted shortly to schedule your first meeting. Thank you for applying to be a Rainbow Ribbon School!

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