



## **MGS Partner Network Roles & Responsibilities**

### **About Missouri Green Schools (MGS)**

[Missouri Green Schools](#) is a free tracking and recognition program whose mission is to support all Missouri schools in taking a systems-based approach to identify and advance practices throughout their campuses, educational programming, and school culture that reduce environmental impact, improve health and wellness, and provide place-based education.

Administered by the U.S. Green Building Council-Missouri Gateway Chapter and the Missouri Environmental Education Association, Missouri Green Schools engages partners across the state to support schools in their efforts. Partners are an integral part of the program, providing critical resources for MGS enrolled schools in addition to strengthening their own networks amongst each other.

Schools with 60% or more free and reduced priced lunch programs have the opportunity for additional support (referred to as MGS+), including access to one-on-one assistance in setting goals and tracking progress as well as financial support for staff professional development and through small grant opportunities.

### **What is the MGS Partner Network?**

MGS Partners offer Missouri schools resources to support schools' advancement of green schools-related initiatives across one or more of these three pillars:

- reducing environmental impact and costs
- improving health and wellness of students and staff
- providing place-based education

Resources offered may be free or fee-based, and may include expertise/technical assistance, products, services, field trips, school programming (on or off-site), utility incentives, grants, volunteers, speakers, and/or internship opportunities (pre-college).

The MGS Partner Network consists of eight regional hubs located throughout the state of Missouri. Regional hubs are uniquely positioned to cultivate localized efforts and build relationships grounded in helping schools go green, address regional barriers and opportunities, elevate educational equity, and increase the diversity of schools and partners participating in the MGS program. Participating partners are able to expand their own audiences while developing stronger relationships with schools and other partners across the state leading to effective collaborations.

### **Where are the eight regional hubs located?**

- E - St. Louis
- W - Kansas City
- SW - Springfield
- Central - Columbia or Jefferson City
- NW - St. Joseph
- NE - Kirksville
- SE - Cape Girardeau
- Ozarks - Rolla, West Plains

### **What will the regional hubs do?**

- Meet regularly to build capacity and forward movement
- Support MGS schools within their region to advance green initiatives, with a priority on MGS+ schools
- Provide information about their services to be included in a public-facing resource database

### **What are the requirements for being a MGS Partner?**

- Support the vision and mission of MGS
- Provide a service that helps schools advance in at least one of the 3 pillars
- Fill out survey annually to communicate resources offerings for inclusion in searchable resource directory
- Attend the annual partner network statewide meeting which includes professional development component
- Identify at least one regional hub to participate in
- Promote MGS to schools and partners
- Celebrate schools in your region & what they are doing
- Participate in annual community service project facilitated by the MGS Partner Network Coordinator to assist an MGS+ school within your region

### **What are the benefits of being a partner in the MGS Regional Partner Network?**

- Promotion of your resources through the online searchable database of Partners and their available supports for schools
- Recognized on the MGS website as an MGS Partner
- Networking and collaboration opportunities within the network
- Access to professional development opportunities
- Strengthen green career pathways for Missouri youth
- Contribute to the larger story of collective impact

### **Who will coordinate the MGS Partner Network?**

A Missouri Green Schools AmeriCorp VISTA member will serve as the primary coordinator of the statewide MGS Partner Network. Leaders will be established within each regional hub, referred to as Regional Hub Coordinators.

**The MGS Regional Partner Network Coordinator (VISTA position) will:**

- Support the development and ongoing maintenance of regional hubs
  - Coordinate annual statewide Partner Network meeting
  - Communicate regularly with Regional Hub Coordinators
  - Work with the Regional Hub Coordinators to establish the content and goals of the regional meetings, and participate in the meetings
- Build capacity of the Partner Network to provide resources and support across the 3 pillars of the MGS program throughout the state, especially to low-income Missouri schools; identify gaps and work to fill them
  - Work the Regional Hub Coordinators and MGS staff to identify new partner leads and delegate outreach efforts
  - Support the goal of mapping state/regional health, environmental and equity indicators along with the location of MGS enrollees, service areas of Partner Network members, and resources to support schools in advancing their green schools efforts
- Support Partner Network members in relationship building and providing support to MGS schools
  - Disseminate MGS materials and resources among Partner Network members
  - Coordinate professional development offerings for Partner Network members
  - Manage the public-facing Partner Network resource database for schools
  - Coordinate Partner Survey completion (annually)
  - Organize community service projects through which Partner Network members help MGS+ schools within their regions
- Maintain continuity of Partner Network communication and support from year to year through development of a transition plan and procedure for transfer to next VISTA

**The Regional Hub Coordinator (Volunteer) will:**

*In addition to general MGS Partner requirements.*

- Submit an application to serve in this leadership role
- Ideally, commit to two years of service in leadership role
- Ideally, live or work within their hub region
- Check in with the MGS Partner Network Coordinator (VISTA) bi-monthly to assist with MGS communication needs and to get support in growing your hub
- Organize local hub meetings as needed
- Assist the MGS Partner Network Coordinator as needed with planning an MGS+ community service project in your region
- *Estimated time commitment: 4-8 hours/month*

\*\*\*MGS Partner Network Coordinator will provide specific direction for communications needs and will provide access to materials to assist with communications efforts

\*\*\*At this time, we don't have capacity to provide stipends but it's a long-range goal to support these positions financially