Earth Charter INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter

unesco Chair

Schools Living the Earth Charter

November 2026



Lifelong learning

The Earth Charter & ESD School Seal (ECSS) is a quality seal pioneer among school assessments since it integrates an ethical perspective of sustainability with the pedagogical elements and education practice associated with education for sustainable development.

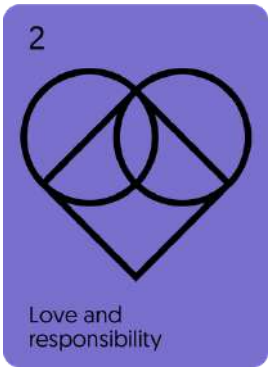
The overall objective of this Seal is to serve as a learning tool to galvanize change towards the integration of values and practice of sustainability in the school.

It was developed by Earth Charter International as a response to requests from education institutions that seek recognition of their work with the Earth Charter & ESD.









EC School

Warburg Secondary School

Germany

The school began with a question: “How can we design schools differently?” When it was founded in 2013, the principles of the Earth Charter became binding guidelines for the whole school.

Today 798 students live those principles. Class councils meet every week, led by the pupils. Year 8 students can choose an Earth Charter subject with tree planting and birdwatching. Others work on a youth farm or cook a healthy meal for their younger peers.

For the School Seal, teachers, students, parents, janitors, and the town’s mayor gathered the evidence together. The school earned the highest rating and its new name, Erd-Charta-Schule. Its first motto: “We grow together.”



EC School

Ridge and Valley Charter School

United States

5
Protect Earth's diversity

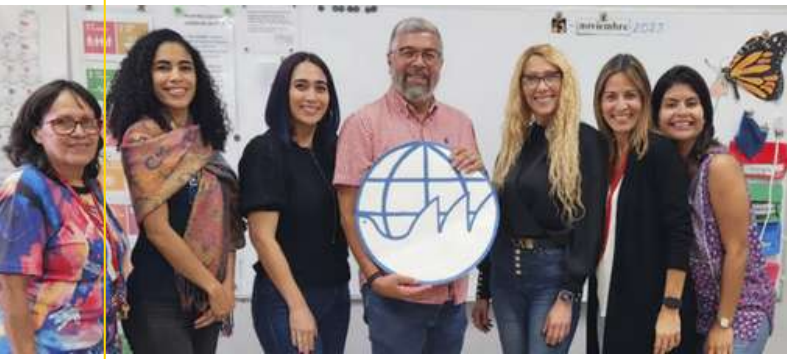
14
Integrate values into education

Ridge and Valley Charter School in New Jersey, USA, was founded on a simple vision: the Earth is our primary teacher. Its 135 students learn among forests and rivers, celebrating solstices and restoring their local watershed.

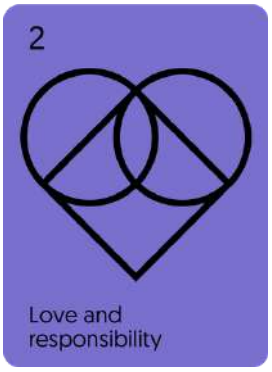
In 2024, guide Maggie Vetter discovered the Earth Charter and ESD School Seal at an Earth Charter conference and brought it home to her colleagues. More than half of the students from fourth to eighth grade joined the Seal committee, opening a new path toward global citizenship.

Today, graduating students name the process “a really eye-opening experience,” and many continue their journey through ECI’s Emerging Leaders course.









EC School

Escuela Julian E. Blanco

Puerto Rico

Escuela Especializada en Ballet Julián E. Blanco is a public secondary school in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where 120 students weave ballet together with academic learning.

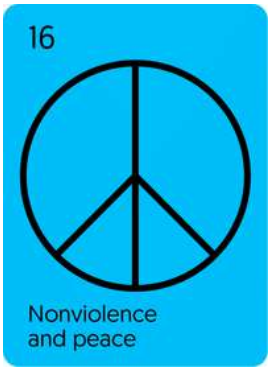
The Earth Charter first entered its classrooms through science teacher Minnuette Rodríguez, who found “a culture of care, a culture of love for nature” already alive in the school. In 2023 a committee of teachers, students, and the principal took up the Earth Charter and ESD School Seal, earning certification in early 2024.

Today every subject draws on the Earth Charter, from science to Spanish literature, and classes open with reflection. Students now carry the values of the Earth Charter beyond campus as confident spokespeople and leaders.









EC School

Escola Vila

Brazil

Escola Vila in Fortaleza, Brazil, was founded in 1981 by educator and environmentalist Fátima Limaverde, and has long inspired others with its transdisciplinary approach to learning.

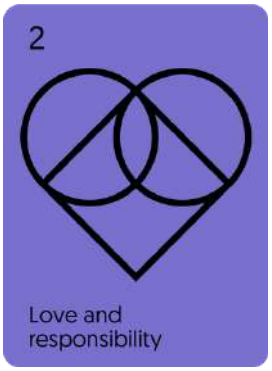
Through the Earth Charter and ESD School Seal, Escola Vila became the first school in Brazil to earn the Seal, reaching its Advanced Level (Tree). The school also received UNESCO Green School recognition through the alignment of the Seal with the Greening Education Partnership.

Today, as Escola Vila celebrates 45 years, its students continue to learn through complexity, care, and connection, nurturing a more just, sustainable, and peaceful future.









EC School

Escuela La Joya

Costa Rica

La Joya is a small rural public school in Desamparados, Costa Rica, where twelve students learn with the living world as their classroom.

After completing ECI's Online Certificate Program in Education for Sustainable Development, director Banacheck García grew an Ecological Park with the community, linking every garden, greenhouse, and trail to a pillar of the Earth Charter. The school earned the Earth Charter and ESD School Seal in 2022 and renewed its journey in 2026.

Today, harvests from the school garden nourish students at lunch and travel home with them, where families plant their own seeds. Community hands help sustain every space, and their names grow alongside the plants they tend.

