Developing Robust School Gardens

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cultivates children’s love of learning, healthy food, and nature through garden-based education.

Farm Field Trips

School Garden Support

Curriculum

Educator Workshops

The Growing Classroom
Garden-Based Science and Nutrition Activity Guide

Fourth Edition
School Garden Starter Kit*
$499

*Just add kids and water

VALID 6/9 – 7/3/11

PLUS, MORE THAN $4,800 IN ONLINE SAVINGS FROM COSTCO.COM.

School Garden in a Box
Assembly Required
Children and Teachers Not Included

MEMBER-ONLY COUPON SAVINGS • 6/9 – 7/3/11
The Reality of School Gardens

Challenges vary from site to site but often include:

- Funding challenges
- Finding and sustaining a “Garden Champion”
- Networking and communications within the school community
- Maintenance
- Summer break
- Teachers have their hands full
SCUSD FARM
● The Farm is located on District property
● Previously Operated by non profit – Full Circle Farm for 10+ years
● Nutrition Services/facility planning began operating August 2017
- 2018 - 2019 more than 34,000 pounds of produce utilized
  - Farm stand 18,000+, Nutrition Services 17,000+
- Grew more than 14,000 pounds of pumpkins
- Sold 150 Christmas trees
Challenges
● Coordination Time/Effort
● Processing produce
● Education Services participation
● Union resistance of special events
● Mother Nature
HEALTHY DAY
NOURISHING and HEALING PEOPLE & PLANET THROUGH
• IMPROVED FOOD SYSTEMS
• ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES
• ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
CONNECTING STUDENTS TO SCHOOL LUNCH THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CLASSROOM FARM SCHOOL GARDEN CAFETERIA
STRAIGHT 2 THE PLATE

- Farm to School program started at Ocean Knoll Farm 1-acre school site
- Proof of concept for crop production and integration into general education
- Scaled up crops and educational programming by creating EUSD Farm Lab 10-acre satellite campus
- Established as first certified-organic elementary school campus and farm to school program growing for its own school lunch program in the country

Now in less affluent communities - nourishing 6,000 economically disadvantaged kids

5,400 Students

40,000 Pounds of produce
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

FUNDING

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE MONEY!

TIPS
- RELATIONSHIPS
- PARTNERSHIPS
- SHARING PASSION
- STORY TELLING
- ALIGNMENT/SHARED VALUES
- REPUTATION
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

SYSTEM CHANGE

IT'S A CONTINUUM

1 FARMER ➔
TEAM OF FARMERS
FARMING PARTNERS
HARVEST VOLUME
TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION
PROTOCOL AND TRAINING
EQUIPMENT

TIPS

BEYOND THE GARDEN CHAMPION
CHEER LEADERS IN THE ORGANIZATION
ADMIN, FOOD SERVICE, TEACHERS, PTA
Quick Activity:
Which image best represents the stage at which you are in this process?
Think-Pair-Share

- What is a key challenge you face in developing robust school garden programs in your region?
- What is one idea you got today that may apply well in your area?
- What questions do you have about developing robust school garden programs?
Q and A
Free, Online Resources on Developing Robust School Garden Programs

The Green Tool: An Evidence-Based, Customizable Map of Components of a Well-Integrated School Garden -

Getting Started/Comenzando: A Guide in English and Spanish on Starting a School Garden -
https://www.lifelab.org/store/free-downloads/

Want to get in touch?

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