

Whole School, Community, and Child (WSSC)
School Gardening Policy

(School Name) is committed to the health and wellbeing of our students and staff because proper nutrition and wellness is imperative to the success of the individual mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Community gardens, and other types of small-scale agriculture, have been shown to provide important social, health, environmental and economic benefits, in addition to creating opportunities for local food production. These benefits can be used to develop support for community gardening activities with local policy-makers, businesses, and community members

As Shown By:

- Increase access to fresh, healthy, and culturally preferred food, resulting in greater fruit and vegetable consumption by gardening households.
- Support household, community, and municipal food security with seasonal and culturally appropriate foods and offer economic savings.
- Improve mental well-being by reducing stress, providing a source of physical activity, creating a sense of pride and accomplishment, providing cognitive stimulation, providing connection to nature, and a way to spend time outdoors.
- Provide opportunities for skills development, workforce training, and supplemental income. These opportunities can be especially beneficial for neighborhood youth, immigrants, and individuals with disabilities.
- Benefit schools by increasing active learning, creating a stronger school curriculum, encouraging healthier food environments, and improving employee wellness.
- Promote community well-being, build community connections, and increase community engagement.
- Provide environmental benefits, including improved air quality, pollinator habitats, increased biodiversity, and increased rainwater drainage.

Therefore:

It is the goal of (School Name) to have the option for students to participate in a gardening program where they will be provided a space, soil, and seeds to learn about the planting and growth phases of gardening. It is a later goal to be able to harvest the plants grown and provide them for taste tests to the students and faculty.

Therefore:

Effective _____, 20__ it is the policy of (Name of School) to include a school garden and gardening into the students learning

Title Name of School

Signature Date