



MPS School Garden Guide

Tips for how to grow a garden your school!

Starting a Garden at Your School:

Here is the [Application and Approval Process](#) for starting a MPS School Garden. This document explains the requirements needed to start a MPS school garden.

Once the requirements on this form are met, contact Clyde Kane to finalize them and discuss next steps:

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Planning your Garden:

- The [School Garden Checklist](#) from Let's Move! is a great place to start
- Check out Slow Food USA's comprehensive [School Garden Guide](#)
- Check out [Getting Started: A Guide for Creating School Gardens as Outdoor Classrooms](#) from the Center for Ecoliteracy to help make the most of your school garden as an educational tool

Educational Resources:

- Check out this [list of educational resources](#) for school gardens compiled by the the University of Minnesota
- [Minnesota School Gardens: A Guide to Gardening and Plant Science](#) features K-12 lessons which correspond to the Minnesota Academic Standards
- Look into these USDA Garden Based Educational resource tools:
 - [Grow It, Try It, Like It!](#) Nutrition education kit featuring MyPlate
 - [The Great Garden Detective Adventure](#): A standards-based gardening nutrition curriculum for grades 3 and 4
 - [Dig In!](#) Standards-based nutrition education from the ground up for grades 5 and 6
- Check out this [School Gardens Activity Guide](#) from the Whole Kids Foundation and American Heart Association, includes lessons on gardening, botany, nutrition, consumer education, and agriculture linked to national educational standards

Garden Safety:

- Look over this [list of food safety tips](#) for school gardens from the USDA
- Check out this [list of garden safety](#) resources from the University of Minnesota



Fundraising Ideas:

- Apply for grant funding – here is a [list of grants available for school gardens](#)
- Advertise school gardens at parent/family nights and ask for donation of time, seeds, gardening expertise and/or money
- Partner with local restaurants/businesses to sell (excess) produce. For example, Anthony Middle School partners with Pizzeria Lola, read about Anthony Middle's "Pizza Garden" [here](#)
- Hold a plant or seed sale by selling excess seeds or by taking trimmings from existing plants

Getting Everyone Involved:

- Establish clubs (meeting during lunch or after school) which focus on garden planning, maintenance, and harvesting.
- Having an existing club, such as the National Honors Society, take on garden maintenance and harvest as a volunteer or service project
- Hold a school wide seed germination event
- Signage! Make sure to include contact info for kids and parents who might want to get involved
- Adapt classes such as science, physical education, or special education to include gardening
- Create an after school program such as Roosevelt's RUF Squad for students to tend to the garden after school
- Create a cooking or gardening elective to further incorporate the garden into school curriculum
- Invite parents who are experts in gardening to come to school and lead garden workshops
- Hold an open garden day where parents and families can come to garden
- Include community garden space in your garden and invite community members to help out, or maintain the garden as a community garden during the summer when school is no longer in session

Community Partners & Supporters:

We are incredibly lucky to have the support of so many wonderful community partners, including:

Art Your Engine

ArtiCulture

Beez Kneez

Community

Ed Eco Education

Field Regina



Northrop Neighborhood Group
Gardening Matters
Harvest Moon Edible Landscapes
Jeffers Foundation
Kids Cook Classroom
[True Food Chef Council Restaurants](#)
Master Gardeners
Metro Blooms Midwest Food Connection
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
MN Horticulture Society
MPS Nutrition Services
Project Sweetie Pie
PTA
SPARK-Y
University of Minnesota
Whole Kids Foundation
Youth Farm

Research in Support of School Gardens:

[USDA list of research](#) supporting the positive impact of school gardens