**Garden-Based Education Resources**

**Available from the California Department of Education**

***Kids Cook Farm-Fresh Food*** is an activity guide that links academic content standards to the real world through gardens, nutrition, cooking, recycling, and the environment. Activities engage teachers and students in grades two through seven in exploring fresh, seasonal, locally grown produce through direct experience. Using tested recipes and farm profiles, Kids Cook Farm-Fresh Food links agriculture and the culinary arts to reading, mathematics, social sciences, and geography. This guide also links food and nutrition to the concept of sustainable agriculture, which is a commitment to growing and distributing food in an environmentally sound, economically viable, and socially just manner. Alongside instructional school gardening experiences, this guide helps students to develop a deeper understanding of where food comes from, and how farmers bring life from the land, while students apply math, language, and other core skills. Available for free download at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/kidscook.asp> CURRICULUM

***Nutrition to Grow On*** is an innovative curriculum for grades four through six that offers teachers a direct link between the garden and nutrition education. Nine lessons are designed to teach children and their families about nutrition by relating each lesson to a garden activity. The curriculum uses the garden to integrate disciplines, including science, mathematics, language arts, history, environmental studies, nutrition and health, while reinforcing some California academic content standards. School gardens are wonderful sources of food and beauty and outlets for physical activity; they can also help students discover fresh food and learn to make healthier food choices. *Nutrition to Grow On* taps into these instructional gardens to cultivate the students’ talents and skills while enriching their capacities for observation and thinking. Free download at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/nrttogrow.asp> CURRICULUM

**Green Ribbon Schools Program:** A program of the California Department of Education. Schools must win recognition from California before applying for the federal program. Top of the World Elementary in Laguna Beach won the state and federal designations in 2018. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/> Search CA green ribbon award. CURRICULUM, FUNDING

***Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Photo Cards*** is a set of 140 beautiful, color photographs suitable for framing. 2007. The front of each fully laminated 8.5” x 9.5” card displays a color photograph of a fruit or vegetable with its name in English and Spanish. On the reverse is a bar graph displaying an analysis of nutrients, suggested serving size, and other useful information. CURRICULUM To order the set of photo cards ($50 plus tax, shipping and handling), visit cdep.klas.com RESOURCES

**Other School Garden Resources**

**Gardens for Learning:** A comprehensive guidebook (2010) that provides a strong foundation to support the growing school garden movement. It was developed by a team of experienced garden educators, nutritionists, state officials, and other garden experts. This guidebook is a must-have resource for anyone looking to enhance learning through the use of gardens in schools and other community settings. Available for free download from Center for Nutrition in Schools (CNS) at UC Davis. cns.ucdavis.edu CURRICULUM, FUNDING

**Student’s Guide to Composting*:*** *Composting in the Classroom: Scientific Inquiry for High* School Students, by Nancy Trautmann and Marianne Krasny is a comprehensive guide for teachers interested in guiding compost research projects by high school students available at https://compost.csscornell.edu. Cornell also has information on school gardens, lesson plans, at <https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu> They also sponsor an Institute for Biology Teachers that has more than 100 labs and activities mainly for middle and high school. https://blogs.cornell.edu/cibt/labs-activities CURRICULUM, VIDEOS

**Life Lab :** Located in Santa Cruz, CA, Life Lab is an excellent sources for all things related to school gardens. Publications include *The Growing Classroom: Garden-Based Science New Edition*: 480 pages of science, math and language arts activities you can do with your students in the garden. Topics include soil, plants, cycles, ecology, weather, nutrition and food systems. $39.95 order online. They have three units for K-2 that align to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).$50 for all three units. There is also a Growing Classroom Standards database you can search by lesson, grade level, standard, or key word that aligns to common core and NGS standards . [www.lifelab.org](http://www.lifelab.org) CURRICULUM, LOGISTICS

**California Farm to School Program:** California programs that connect schools with local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local small farmers. cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/CaFarmtoSchoolProgram.htm CURRICULUM, FUNDING, NEWSLETTER

**School Garden Weekly:** Newsletter produced by San Diego County master gardeners that contains instructional activities, links to networks, recipes. [www.schoolgardenweekly.com](http://www.schoolgardenweekly.com) CURRICULUM,NEWSLETTER.

**The Ecology Center.** Center is located in San Juan Capistrano and provides information on starting a garden, and a” grow your own” curriculum. theecologycenter.org CURRICULUM.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.** Through the Community Partnering Program (CPP) sponsors grants of up to $2000 to support water-related education programs, water conservation and water use efficiency. Must be a non-profit in service area of Metropolitan Water District. Have funded K-12 curriculum development, after-school programs, native plant garden signage. Grants available on ongoing basis July1st-June 30th. www1.mwdh2o.com. FUNDING.

**CA Department of Water Resources.** Provides hard copy and electronic versions of educational materials related to water for K-12. Topics include water cvcle, water sheds, conservation, etc.www.water.ca.gov. search education.CURRICULUM.

**CA Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.** Provides lesson plans and links to National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum that can be searched by grade level, keyword, content, state specific, common core connections. [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org) CURRICULUM

**CA Education & Environment Initiative (EEI).** Has K-12 lessons tied to standards emphasizing agricultural and environmental literacy that relate to common core standards. [www.CaliforniaEEI.org](http://www.CaliforniaEEI.org). CURRICULUM

**Sage Garden Project.** Located in Encinitas, CA, non-profit works with 60+ CA elementary schools with underserved students to provide $15,000 grants for hiring educators to teach cooking and gardening skills. Site also lists k-6 cooking lessons. [www.sagegardenproject.org](http://www.sagegardenproject.org) . FUNDING, CURRICULUM.

**The Edible Schoolyard Project.** Berkeley, CA. Host of resources for starting and maintaining a school garden, especially for grades 6-8. edibleschoolyard.org CURRICULUM

**Berkeley Unified School District Garden and Cooking Program.** Berkeley, CA. School district has pdf versions of its garden curriculum, which includes standards addressed in lessons. Curriculum divided into pre-k and k, 1st-3rd grades and 4th-5th grades. [https://www.berkeleyschools.net/gcp .CURRICULUM](https://www.berkeleyschools.net/gcp%20.CURRICULUM).

**Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation**. Supported by Sprouts Markets. Several levels of grants available. Currently reassessing grant program. Supportier of Growing School Gardens Summit to be held in San Diego March 15-18, 2024. About.sprouts.com Search grants. FUNDING

**Peaceful Valley (Grass Valley, CA):** Although this is a commercial site, there are “how-to”videos . They also offer discounts to schools of 5-30%. You must fill out an application and, if accepted, order on school letterhead. www.groworganic.com CURRICULUM ,FUNDING

**Katie’s Krops:** Started by a young girl in South Carolina, gives awards for vegetable gardens started by youths ages 9-16 that donate their harvest to the underserved in their community. [www.katieskrops.com](http://www.katieskrops.com) Deadline in December. FUNDING

**Kid’s Gardening:** Awards 25 grants nationally to start or expand school/youth gardens. Also has lessons plans.https://www.kidsgardening.org/garden-grants. Deadline in December. CURRICULUM, FUNDING

**Kiss the Ground:** Offers a free middle school downloadable curriculum developed in conjunction with Life Lab, Soil Story. Curriculum is also available in Spanish. kisstheground.com CURRICULUM

**National Farm to School Network:** This national network offers resources about local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education. www.farmtoschool.org. CURRICULUM, FUNDING

**Greenworks!:** An action project of Project Learning Tree (PLT). Need to have a PLT trained educator involved to apply for $1000 grant. Deadline is September 30th. Four CA schools won grants out of 24 awarded nationwide in 2015-2016. [www.greenworks.org](http://www.greenworks.org) CURRICULUM, FUNDING

**American Heart Association:** Sponsors teaching gardens across the country. In 2013 the first gardens in Orange County were installed in installed in 13 schools in Santa Ana and Garden Grove thanks to funding from AHA and the California Endowment. National grants are available. For more about the program, which is aimed at elementary level, go to [teachinggardens@heart.org](mailto:teachinggardens@heart.org) and search for teaching gardens. CURRICULUM, FUNDING

**Green Education Foundation:** Emphasis on sustainability. Site includes standards-based curriculum, gardening resources, and Green Thumb Challenge grant ($500) for existing gardens. <http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org> CURRICULUM, FUNDING

**CalRecycle.** Site contains information about worm composting in the classroom. <https://www,calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/worms> CURRICULUM

**School Garden Support Organization Network.** A Google group that sponsors webinars and meetings. Also has an e-list for questions and issues. [www.sgsonetwork.org](http://www.sgsonetwork.org) RESOURCES

**Slow Food USA** has a national school garden program that offers curriculum and garden network. [slowfoodusa](http://www.slowfoodusa).org. RESOURCES, FUNDING

**Whole Kids Foundation** offers information on planning, garden design, and curriculum. Grants also available. [wholekidsfoundation.org CURRICULUM](http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/resources/school-garden-resources.%20CURRICULUM), FUNDING

**Nature Conservancy.** Nature works everywhere program can be searched by grade level. <https://natureworkseverywhere.org> RESOURCES, WEBINARS, FUNDING

**Center for Ecoliteracy** offers a free download of Getting Started: a Guide for Starting School Gardens (2009). https://www.ecoliteracy.org RESOURCES

**School Garden Wizard** sponsored by Chicago Botanic Garden, includes information on curriculum connections. chicagobotanic[.org](http://www.schoolgardenwizrd.org) Search curriculum. RESOURCES, CURRICULUM

**Wisconsin School Garden Network** offers a newsletter with information on grants, activities and a garden toolkit. They also have a free e-book in English and Spanish Teaching in Nature’s Classroom. [www.wischoolgardens.org](http://www.wischoolgardens.org) RESOURCES

**SeedMoney** is a Maine-based non-profit helping food garden projects to thrive. Have a lot of information on line regarding growing plants, pests and diseases. Includes a garden planning app for $7.99. Also provide challenge and merit grants ranging from $200-$600, Deadline is November. www.seedmoney.org FUNDING

**ALDI Cares Community Grants** is open to non-profits and public schools. Rolling deadline to apply. Grants range from $250-$5000 to support children’s health and wellness, food insecurity, and diversity, equity and inclusion. corporate.aldi.us FUNDING

**Sources for seeds:**

Seed Savers has Herman’s Garden donation. Go to [www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org) to apply. Seeds are those returned from vendors after season. Costs $15 for shipping and handling.

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. Located in Missouri. They will send seeds to schools at no charge. There is a limited quantity. They have unusual seeds. Contact them. rareseeds.com

Your own staff, parents, and stores at the end of the year.

**Federal Programs**

**Science & Our Food Supply:** Free supplemental curriculum on food safety for middle and high schools from the FDA. [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). Search science and our food supply. CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM

**United Nations Resources**

Two free publications are available from the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO.org

Setting Up and Running a School Garden is a 2005 publication available in English, French and Spanish. 208 pages ISBN 9251054088

Setting Up and Running a School Garden-Teaching Toolkit is a 2010 book containing garden lessons to supplement and support gardening activities. 194 pages. Also available in French.

Both can be viewed in html or downloaded as a pdf.

Updated 5/25/23