

School
Gardens
Help
Children
Grow
School Garden Guide



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School Gardens Don't Set a New Standard

They Support the Standards You've Already Set!

School gardens...

- Create healthy schools, healthy families and healthy communities
- Enhance wellness programs and positively impact nutrition
- Extend county, state and national Go Green initiatives
- Increase eco-literacy and life skills
- Engage diverse populations and build bridges between classrooms, grades, schools, homes and the community
- Offer opportunities for interdisciplinary curriculum delivery
- And, dare we say it, even improve test scores!



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PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

And How School Gardens Support Them

Standard 1: **Welcoming all families into the school community**

In the Garden:

Include heirlooms to showcase the multicultural diversity in our classrooms today, and enable all families to feel at home. Make inter-generational connections with grandparents as volunteers.

Standard 2: **Communicating effectively**

In the Garden:

Designate a "garden parent" each week (many schools already do a weekly "science parent") who prepares a lesson in the garden to extend what is being taught in the classroom.

Standard 3: **Supporting student success**

In the Garden:

Encourage healthy snacks by enabling those who bring fruits and vegetables to feed their scraps to a worm bin in the garden. Encourage students to apply what they've learned in school at home.

Standard 6: **Collaborating with community**

In the Garden:

Bring local farmers and artisans, chefs, environmentalists, business leaders, and government representatives to the garden to talk about how what is learned in the garden applies outside of school. Take affordable local field trips to visit these organizations as well!

Standard 5: **Sharing power**

In the Garden:

Vote each season as a school for the crop list to be planted the following season. Use the garden as an opportunity to teach civic responsibility and engagement.

Standard 4: **Speaking up for every child**

In the Garden:

Allow for wheelchair access, and include other elements in the garden that accommodate or appeal to those with disabilities. Provide environmental education so that children are better prepared for our changing world.



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Funding Ideas

You might think you can't afford to start a school garden, especially in these hard economic times. However, considering how much school gardens can teach children, can you afford not to? We have seen schools rally around the desire to build a school garden in many resourceful ways, and we are happy to share with you ideas of how others have done it.

Here are a few:

- Use surplus PTA funds, if you have them (okay, that's the easy one)
- Adopt a spot, pot, plot, tree or plant
- Sell Farmer D seeds, plants, tools and home garden kits as a school fund-raiser (as a welcome alternative to fund-raising efforts that have no environmental benefit) and extend the school garden learning experience to children's homes and throughout their communities.
- Request \$1-5 per family (collect pennies, do chores around the house, donate allowance)
- "Sell" the opportunity to paint a flower on a wall (perhaps by where the garden will be) or fence (a great literature tie-in to **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer!**)
- Ask grandparents to sponsor the garden (include their "Victory Garden" stories! This is the last generation that grew up with these!)
- Solicit sponsorship dollars from local businesses (be careful that these businesses represent the values you are trying to promote with the garden!)
- Apply for grants, and include children in the process. Grant support for gardens is growing.

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How Farmer D Sets the Standard In School Gardens



Daron "Farmer D" Joffe has spent his life creating organic farms and gardens, including those at Serenbe, Hampton Island Preserve, and the City of Suwanee as well as dozens of Georgia schools. He owns and operates Farmer D Organics, which has two retail locations in the Atlanta area, as well as a website (www.farmerd.com) and a program titled *In the Field* on the Mother Nature Network (www.mnn.com).

The Farmer D Organics school garden package is a turnkey solution that provides you with installation of the highest quality products at the best possible price, customized for your specific school's needs, as well as ongoing support to ensure the success of your school garden program.

Highest Quality Products

Farmer D Organics uses only solid cedar wood to build garden beds because of its longevity and safety. We use our own organic soil and biodynamic compost, and organic plants and seeds, with many interesting heirloom varieties available. In addition to our standard school garden package, we offer trellises, sheds, chicken coops, irrigation systems, tools, table top kits, germination kits, and everything else you could need or want in a school garden.

Ongoing Support

When you use Farmer D Organics for your school garden, you can access teacher training workshops, e-newsletter updates with garden care instructions, open-sourced curriculum suggestions, and regularly timed delivery of seasonal vegetables and organic garden amendments. Additionally, Farmer D Organics partners with the Captain Planet Foundation and Whole Foods Markets, through which additional resources can be attained.

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Your School Garden: Easy as 1-2-3

1



Organic school garden packages

including delivery, installation and training

2



Soils, fertilizers, plants and more delivered to your school

\$35-\$75 per yard, plus delivery

3



Compost solutions and education

compost and worm bins start at \$89

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More School Garden Information

FarmerD.com School Gardens



Dig in to your school garden now.

For a quote on a garden at your school, contact Farmer D Organics at www.farmerd.com/contact or (404) 325-0128. We'll have you growing in no time!

Farmer D Organics Social Network



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