

# Why School Gardens?



## **School Gardens enhance academic achievement**

- School gardens provide an experiential, hands-on educational space where core curriculum comes alive.
- School gardens, as outdoor classrooms teach to the curriculum, but by nature, are dynamic educational settings that provide numerous opportunities to expand upon the standards.
- Outdoor classrooms are where learning across disciplines comes to life
- Getting kids out of classrooms for hands-on learning is helping them grasp and retain more information
- School gardens are where students become scientist in their living laboratory
- Instead of relying on a diagram to learn about bee behavior –gardens allow the space to experience it first, make observations and create questions. This engagement leads to more critical thinking and communication, collaboration and empowerment.
- Garden classrooms enrich classroom based learning across the academic curriculum, making abstract concepts more concrete

## **School gardens promote healthy lifestyles**

- School garden programs empower children to become active participants in their food choices
- School cooking programs empower children to create healthy meals to share with their family
- Kids who grow veggies are kids who eat veggies
- When students go outside for fresh air it gives them a needed brain break
- Gardens provide a place where students can contribute to the production of healthy food, from seed to table

## **School Gardens instill an environmental stewardship ethic**

- Outdoor settings in gardens and on farms are where students observe the working of a diverse ecosystem first hand

## **School Gardens encourage community and social development**

- Life skills like teamwork, volunteerism, self-understanding, leadership, decision-making, and communication are outcomes of garden-based learning.

## **School gardens instill a sense of place**

- Developing a sense of place is critical to a foundation of ecological awareness and responsibility
- Students come to understand weather, soil, geology, topography, cultural traditions and history that defines their place

## **School garden venues stimulate imaginative and unstructured play**