



[SCHOOL NAME HERE]

School Garden Program Guide (year)

1. VISION & GOALS

Vision: The *[School Name]* Garden Program *[add a one-sentence school vision statement that captures your interest holders' values, alignment with the school's mission, and long-term impact.]*

Goals:

- Support Arizona Science Standards through experiential learning.
- Increase student access to fresh produce and nutrition education.
- Build community through shared garden events and volunteer opportunities.
- Foster environmental stewardship and responsibility.

2. GARDEN LEADERSHIP (ROLE)

Garden Committee Chair: Angelica Lopez, *PE Teacher* (Garden Club Leader)

Committee Members:

- Jasmine Chen, *4th Grade Teacher* (Garden Curriculum, Back-Up Chair)
- George Rose, *Facilities Manager* (Garden Construction & Maintenance)
- Janice Bilberry, *Parent Volunteer* (Events & Volunteers)
- Ivy Amaryllis, *AmeriCorps Volunteer* (Planting & Growing)

Consultants:

- Janice Fortune, *Master Gardener* (Technical Assistance)

Succession Planning

- Annual Handoff: Occurs each May during staff transition meeting
- Training: Outgoing chair trains incoming chair for 2 weeks
- Documentation Storage: Google Drive > DesertBloom/Garden
- In the case of an unplanned transition, a new chair can access the Google drive documentation and meet with one or more committee members.

3. GARDEN DESIGN & LAYOUT

Type(s) of Garden:

- Details captured in the DIG in Schools Tool ratings in Goggle Drive
- Outdoors - 6 raised beds (4'x8', 2 ADA-accessible) with drip irrigation & automatic timer, 2-bin composting, shade structure seats 30 students
- Indoors – all 2nd grade classrooms have a small hydroponics set-up

Outdoor Garden map in Google Drive: DesertBloom/GardenDesign.pdf

4. GARDEN GROWTH & MAINTENANCE

Active months (when school is in session):

- One-Time Tasks (annual or in 2026 Action Plan - see Google Drive): winterize before break (facilities management), create new signage (classes), add small pollinator station (Garden Club)
- Weekly/Monthly Tasks: Maintain tools & storage area (facilities management & classes), check water system (facilities management), check for pests (facilities management & classes), test & manage soil (classes, Garden Club), plant (classes, Garden Club), weed & manage growth (classes, Garden Club), harvest (classes, Garden Club), carry & turn compost (Nutrition Services, Garden Club)

Dormant months (summer break):

- AmeriCorps & parent volunteers visit once/month for compost management and soil preparation prior to school year starting
- Perform broad pest management for school grounds, coordinated through facilities management to include & protect garden grounds

5. BUDGET & FUNDING

Annual Budget: \$1,350

- Soil - \$0 (donation)
- Gloves - \$50
- Irrigation replacement parts - \$100
- 2 New hydroponic stations - \$200
- Signage materials - \$200
- Seeds & trellises - \$100
- Student curricular materials - \$300
- Pollinator station construction materials - \$200
- Miscellaneous - \$200

Current Funding/In Kind Sources: Carryover (\$600), student farmers market sales (est. \$50), harvest festival tax donation drive (est. \$500), local Home Depot for soil donation

Potential Funding/In Kind Sources: Whole Kids Foundation Grant, ADE School Garden Grant, local nursery for seeds & starter plants

6. INTENDED USE(S)

Lessons:

- Classroom science (2nd grade – introduction to ecosystems)
- Junior Master Gardener Level One – Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! (grades 3-5)
- Meets AZ Science Standards: 2.L2U1.8; 3.L2U1.9; 4.L4U1.11; L1U1.5

Other Student Engagement :

- After school garden club
- Encourage students to spend free time outdoors
- Schoolwide taste testing, take-home produce, & sensory development (herbs & vegetables)
- Creative lessons (ex., social studies & health education)

Community Engagement :

- Fall Harvest Festival
- Student-led farmers market (Fridays in October)
- Spring Planting Festival

