



Dear Members of the School Board,

We are pleased to share that your school has been selected to receive support through a grant for educational and community gardening. This funding allows us to provide materials and resources to help establish and maintain a garden that can serve as a hands-on learning environment for students and an educational resource for the school community.

The materials provided through this grant are intended specifically for gardening and educational purposes. Depending on your garden's needs and available funding, materials may include seeds, plants, raised garden beds, soil and growing supplies, irrigation materials, gardening tools, storage sheds, greenhouses, and other equipment necessary to support gardening activities.

Garden Requirements

To ensure that grant-funded resources are used as intended, the garden must meet the following requirements:

- The garden must be used for educational and/or community gardening purposes.
- The garden must be used to grow edible fruits, vegetables, herbs, or other food-producing plants.
- Produce grown in the garden may not be sold. Produce may instead be used for educational activities, taste tests, demonstrations, nutrition education, or distributed to students, families, staff, or community members at no cost.
- Grant-funded materials and equipment must remain dedicated to gardening purposes.

What Happens If Gardening Ends?

We understand that circumstances can change over time. If your school or facility decides that it can no longer maintain or operate the garden, please contact us. Our goal is to ensure that these grant-funded resources continue to benefit gardening and educational programs.

If gardening activities permanently cease, we reserve the right to collect and relocate grant-funded materials and infrastructure, including storage sheds, greenhouses, raised beds, tools, and other equipment, to another school or community facility that actively gardens and can use the materials for their intended purpose.

This process helps us make the most of limited grant resources and ensures gardening materials continue to support nutrition education, hands-on learning, food access, and healthy communities throughout Missouri.

Growing and Learning Together

School gardens provide students with meaningful, hands-on opportunities to learn about where food comes from while connecting nutrition, agriculture, science, environmental stewardship, and healthy living. They can also provide opportunities for students to develop responsibility, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a greater appreciation for fresh foods.

We are excited to partner with your school to develop a garden that can become a valuable educational resource for your students and school community.

Please keep us informed of your garden's progress, successes, challenges, and future needs. We also ask that you continue submitting garden information through our reporting process so we can document the impact of these programs and demonstrate the value of garden education throughout Missouri.

Thank you for your partnership and for your commitment to providing students with opportunities to grow, learn, and experience the benefits of gardening.

Sincerely,

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