

GROWING FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

A school gardening program brought to you by the Alachua County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services Department in collaboration with Alachua County Public Schools ESE Growing Education Training students.



We are proud to be one of the few school garden programs in the country growing for school meals! We offer you what you need – from supplies to plants to advice – to grow a bountiful school garden that provides a fun growing experience for students, a hands-on addition to classroom learning activities, and delicious food for taste tests, nutrition education, and school meals.

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU GROW A SCHOOL GARDEN

We will supply plants, seeds, soil, raised bed containers, food-safe harvesting supplies, and other equipment that will enable you to grow a bountiful school garden. The raised bed boxes and transplants are built and grown for you by Growing Education Training students.

- One 32 square foot bed (per classroom) for new gardeners, with additional raised beds added each fall as needed.
- Plants and seeds that do great in our climate and can be easily incorporated into school meals.
- Soil, fertilizer, equipment and supplies to help your plants produce a bountiful harvest.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Garden must be cared for (we will give you lots of advice and troubleshoot as needed).
- Food safety practices must be adhered to (checklist provided).
- Produce grown with plants, soil, and supplies purchased through this program must either go to the lunchroom or be used in a classroom taste test. The lunchroom staff will record the harvest and include it in school meals.
- Only the plants and seeds provided by this program should be used in school meals.
- Teachers, or other school garden champions, whose classes will be participating in the garden must attend a School Garden Workshop at the start of each season. This lead person is responsible for making sure all requirements of the program are adhered to by everyone participating in growing and harvesting.

BENEFITS:

- Expert advice to help you grow a successful garden.
- Free plants, supplies, and equipment.
- Nutrition education and harvest party/taste test for your class once each season.
- Connection to curriculum connection if desired.
- Classroom connection to agriculture – farmer trading cards, and “I am a school farmer” button for elementary school students.

Let's get growing! Contact Chrystal Baker, bakercl@gm.sbac.edu or 352-672-2028 to get started.