

SCHOOL GARDENS IMPACT REPORT



Thank you! Your support helped students experience edible education firsthand as they learned how to grow, cook, and eat fresh food. PreK-12 students throughout the Pittsburgh region planted and harvested fruits, vegetables, and herbs and tried recipes that highlighted the food that they grew. Children loved getting their hands dirty as they learned about fresh food and all of the incredible new life that the gardens brought to their schools.

Your generosity also allowed our staff to reactivate and maintain several gardens that had been neglected due to school closures during the pandemic. Thanks to your funding, more than 25,000 students across Allegheny County were able to experience the many benefits of gardening last year!

2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

- **5** new early childhood gardens created in 2021-22
- **2** learning gardens activated with new programming
- **95%** of teachers believe spending time in the garden enhanced student engagement in academic classes
- **100%** of teachers believe the garden encourages environmental stewardship in students
- **95%** of teachers feel confident and prepared to bring students into the garden on their own
- **90%** of teachers feel that students experienced physical and emotional benefits from being outdoors



Each year our garden has gotten better and has had more and more student involvement. If the students feel engaged in the garden and start to feel ownership of the garden, then I feel our garden is a success. This year, our garden is thriving and expanding.

- Teacher, Pathfinder AIU



This year was amazing. We loved the experience. Our garden produced quite a harvest and was very successful. We had so many highlights. The best was that our toddlers were active in the process and learning. It was also wonderful to experience such a great harvest and be able to incorporate our veggies in lunch and snacks.

- Early Childhood Educator, Angels' Place

Students are so excited to try the vegetables from the garden! We also plant in pots in my classroom and graph growth each week. Students love to see how their plant has grown. Many of them take their plants home to share with their families!

- Teacher, Schiller Academy

[The garden] is one of the best things that I've done since working in this building. It also helps build relationships with students outside of the curriculum.

One of my favorite things is the authentic learning that takes place. Students are actually choosing to learn new foods and how they are grown. Thank You! You help make my work more enjoyable.

- Teacher, Westinghouse High School

