



Create a Vision for Your School Garden

Why is it essential to create a vision statement? A successful garden starts with a thoughtful vision. Even if you are leading the program independently, thinking through all the details involved before time and money are invested helps ensure a successful garden. If you are working with a team, thinking through these details together ensures that everyone is on board and has a collaborative vision. A formal vision statement will make it easier to apply for outside funding. Having a clear vision makes inviting and engaging community members to participate in supporting your garden program. Now it is time to put those thoughts onto paper. Use the prompts below, consider your garden's unique purpose and context to craft a vision statement. To assist in this vision, gather other members of your core team or you can simply create this on your own.

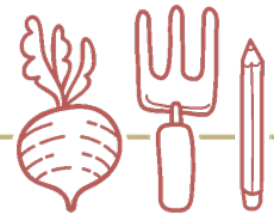
"For every minute spent in organizing, an hour is earned" –Benjamin Franklin.

Who will be your gardeners? (Examples, grade level(s), classes, teachers, parents, etc.)

Where is the garden located on school premises?

When will the garden remain in operation? (Is the garden project time-bound in anyway? Examples: during the school year, spring, fall)

Who is the food being grown for? (Will students take produce home? Will the produce be served in classroom taste tests? Will the produce be served in the school cafeteria?)



What will the garden accomplish? (What are the outcomes you hope for? Examples, students will: have more awareness of where food comes from, be more willing to try new foods, have greater appreciation for the natural world, and improve knowledge and skills through cross curricular integration in topics associated with gardening)

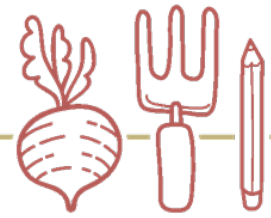
Thread your answers together to craft a vision statement for your garden.



Build Your Garden Team

Use the chart below to brainstorm potential support roles and members for your garden team. Everyone has gifts and skills to contribute, so consider the strengths and passions of both adults and students in your community. Utilize the blank spaces below to brainstorm other team members with skills not listed.

EDUCATION TEAM	COMMUNICATIONS TEAM	FINANCE TEAM	VOLUNTEER TEAM	AGRICULTURE TEAM
Science _____	Newsletter _____	Grant Writer _____	Recruitment _____	Compost _____
Art _____	Social Media _____	Bookkeeper _____	In-take _____	Irrigation _____
Math _____	Special Events _____	Fundraising _____	Training _____	Pest Spotter _____
Language Arts _____	Photographer _____	Donations _____	Appreciation _____	Equipment _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



Set Seasonally Appropriate SMART Goals

Create SMART goals to guide your school garden program throughout the season.

Specific. Ensure your goal is specific enough to know when you've achieved it. To set a specific goal, try to answer the six "W" questions: *Who, What, When, Where, Why and How.*

Measurable. Being able to measure your progress will help you stay on track. Attach values or amounts to your goals as much as possible.

Achievable. Set realistic goals for yourself and for your students. Small wins will encourage you to strive for bigger goals next time, so set goals that are within reach.

Relevant. How does your goal advance your garden's mission? What is important to you and your students?

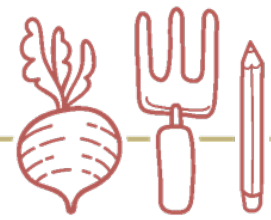
Timebound. Classroom projects have a natural timeline, dictated by the school year. This will help you when defining your objectives for the garden project. What do you want to have accomplished by the time June rolls around?

Consider aligning your goals to the three spheres of sustainability: gardening knowledge, curricula connections, and leadership skills.

Example of SMART Goals:

Annual Objective: Plant at least one garden crop this fall for a classroom taste test in December.

1. **Gardening Goal:** *Apply square foot gardening techniques to plant one raised bed with kale in October.*
2. **Leadership Goal:** *Take photos of the school garden once every two weeks to post on a bulletin board in the hallway and in the parent newsletter. Work with others to plan a harvest party.*
3. **Curricula Goal:** *Connect at least one lesson per week to the school garden with indoor or outdoor activities.*



Annual Objective



Gardening Goal



Leadership Goal



Curricula Goal