



FAITC Staff

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Florida Agriculture in the Classroom

- We are a non-profit organization
- An Affiliate of the University of Florida
- A Direct Service Organization of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services
- Funded by a specialty license plate “the Ag Tag”
- Provide educational resources, workshops, grant funding, and industry support to teachers and volunteers
- Mission: “To be a leading collaborator and trusted provider of PreK-12 educational resources and teacher professional development programs focusing on awareness and knowledge of agriculture and natural resources in Florida.”



Grant Resources

- FAITC School Garden Curricula - faitc.org/school-garden-resources/
- National Ag in the Classroom Resources - [Curriculum Matrix | National Agriculture in the Classroom \(agclassroom.org\)](http://Curriculum Matrix | National Agriculture in the Classroom (agclassroom.org))
- You DO NOT have to do the lesson verbatim as they are in the books. Adapt any lesson to your classroom as needed. If we do not have a lesson that works, look at the National Ag in the Classroom website.
- You do not have to use our pre and post tests, but those tests do need to be given to show growth of knowledge.



Florida School Garden Planner



Florida School Garden Planner

Greetings Garden Champions!

A school garden champion is anyone who takes action to facilitate and support a garden program at your school for improved healthy eating and physical activity choices. Garden champions are leaders who advocate for, create appeal, or improve access to nutrition and physical activity.

A garden program can include engaging students in any kind of gardening activity, such as growing plants indoors in your classroom, outdoors in containers, raised beds, hydroponics, and more! You can scale your garden program according to your experience level and the time you want to dedicate to gardening activities. To increase the scale of your garden program, you could work with other teachers, community members, or staff in your school.

Welcome to the School Garden Planner!

This resource is designed to help you create a seasonal plan for your school garden program step-by-step. Gather your garden leadership team or dedicate time for a solo planning session to clarify your goals and develop a blueprint for achieving them throughout the school year. The planner is organized, so each section builds upon the last, but you can skip around if that suits you. We recommend completing the planner on an annual or seasonal basis to guide your school garden program.

This resource was created to accompany the School Garden Leadership Training Series (SGLT). We recommend participating in at least one SGLT session, although this can be used as a stand-alone guide to organize your school garden.



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Vision Statement



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 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 easier. Now, it is time to put those thoughts onto paper. Use the prompts below¹ to craft a vision statement for your garden's unique purpose and context. To assist in this vision, gather other members of your core team, or you can create this independently.

"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 the school premises?

When will the garden remain in operation? (Is the garden project time-bound in any way? 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? For example, students will have more awareness of where food comes from, be more willing to try new foods, have a 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.

¹ Adapted from Joy, L. (2017). *Start a community food garden: The essential handbook*. Timber Press.

SMART Goals or MAD Goals

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**chievable
- **R**elevant
- **T**imebound

- **M**easurable
- **A**ttainable
- **D**eliverable

Application Guidelines

- Must use the 3 documents FAITC created.
 - Application
 - Budget
 - Timeline
 - Teacher Grant also requires a letter of support from administrator.
 - Replace YourSchoolName with your school's name in all 3 documents before emailing.
 - Email in 1 email to sponholtz@agtag.org by August 30th.
- Most of the issues we see are in the following areas:
 - Purpose and description: tie into budget and timeline, use enough words and thoroughly describe your project.
 - Budget: use allowable items, share where you plan to purchase items, Amazon, amounts add up to \$500
 - Timeline: do not put start in September and end in May!



Additional Resources

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food, Nutrition and Wellness
 - [Michael Carter](#) – Farm to School Outreach Coordinator
- [UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program](#) – in specific counties
- [UF/IFAS Extension](#) – find your local office
- Master Gardeners – find these through your local Extension office.
- [Grow to Learn Guide](#)
- [School Garden Support Organization](#)
- [Life Lab](#)
- [KidsGardening](#)

Contact Us:

- Our website: www.agtag.org or www.faitc.org
- Our Phone #: 352-846-1391
- Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/FloridaAgintheClassroom>

