

## Proposal Worksheet

Proposal for a curriculum-based school garden at \_\_\_\_\_ (school name)

In your proposal you need to show how the school garden will be the milieu where a variety of content standards will be taught in science as well as other subjects. From parts of a plant to ecosystem studies to literacy skills and social studies, you need to show how the school garden provides a natural forum for cross-disciplinary connections, enables fluid learning across the curriculum, and supports a variety of learning styles and abilities. Special Needs students as well as Gifted and Talented groups can all be engaged in appropriate levels of investigations and activities with plants.

### **Introduction**

Opening lines: Begin with a few statements that set a confident tone.

#### **Examples**

Imagine a schoolyard garden that students and faculty show off with pride, not only because of its beauty but because it enables a whole new set of learning experiences for students. We can make this vision a reality at \_\_\_\_\_ School.

\_\_\_\_\_ School has the potential to enhance student learning outside of the classroom as much as it does inside. A curriculum-based school garden could serve as a living laboratory and outdoor classroom for subjects across the curriculum right in our own schoolyard.

\_\_\_\_\_ School is attended by children from many ethnic backgrounds, each with distinctive cultural traditions. We would like to celebrate the rich diversity in our school by creating a garden that brings students together to learn about plants from all over the world. In the process, they can participate in activities that increase science knowledge, sharpen math skills, spur literacy and support lessons in geography, writing, and social studies.

### **Garden Mission, Goals and Objectives**

Next, describe your vision for your school garden in 1-2 paragraphs. Then summarize your mission, goals, and objectives. This section can be a direct product of your Vision Meeting.

Where will it be located? How big will it be? Who will work in it? What will be grown? What stories will it tell? How will the children interact in this space? How will parents be involved? How will it improve the appearance of the schoolyard and of the neighborhood?

Refer to Plan for Success in the School Garden Wizard Web site.

### **Educational Benefits of a School Garden**

Provide educational rationale for the project:

- Read through the material about research on learning in school gardens.
- Find details that are most relevant to your school.
- Cite findings about how a school garden can benefit students at your school.

Browse your state's learning standards and select some key standards that might be supported by a school garden.

Garden activities may support general goals, such as finding real-world applications for math exercises at each grade level, or they may serve specific directives, such as providing a location for 5th grade classes to study plant growth.

Be sure to browse through the Web sites to read about how school gardens have enhanced learning at schools similar to yours. Cite these successful schools as examples the value of your proposed garden.

#### **Examples**

Now a school garden can transform the schoolyard into an outdoor learning laboratory, essentially a new "classroom" with endless opportunities for investigation and study, for relatively low cost when compared to the costs of constructing a new science lab classroom.

A school garden can be built and used to meet learning standards. Not just content standards but also standards for teaching and instruction that are student-centered involving active investigations that rely on students' own environment as a context for learning.

Refer to Make the Case and Learn in the Garden in the School Garden Wizard Web site.

## **Plan of Action**

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Convince your readers that you are aware of the work involved. You do not need to provide all of the answers and you can change your plan as you learn more.

Provide a general plan for getting the work completed:

- Make a realistic timeline that includes general dates for construction, planting, harvesting, and any other significant activities.
- List names of staff and community members who have agreed to actively participate in the project. Include letters of support from them if available.
- Propose a schedule of maintenance that involves classes weeding and watering on a rotating basis or another plan that may work at your school.

Refer to Plan for Success and Create the Garden in the School Garden Wizard Web site.

## **Funding**

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Estimate the cost of this project. List some potential ways to raise the money or obtain in-kind donations for equipment, supplies, and plant materials.

Here you may want to show estimates with and without some of the more expensive elements included. Depending on the size, scope, and cost of the proposed garden, you may also want to suggest several phases of construction. Make certain that Phase I is definitely "accomplishable" so that you have a successful initial phase. This will ensure that the project continues.

Again, you need not be specific or commit yourself to anything at this point. The idea is to demonstrate that you are aware of what the project may cost and you are thinking about how you might pay for it. You will learn more about fundraising in another module.

Refer to Plan for Success >> Getting Funds and Supplies in the School Garden Wizard Web site.

## **Conclusion**

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Bring the proposal to a close. Write a few sentences restating the mission, goals, and overall benefits of a garden at your school, including the educational value of the garden. Don't forget to remind readers of the long-term benefits of a school garden.