

# Visioning for your School Garden



# Researched school garden benefits:

- Exposure to and education about fruits and vegetables,
- improved academic achievement
- builds character and pride,
- increases physical activity and time outside;
- supports responsibility, nurturance, patience and persistence,
- curiosity in and comfort with the natural environment



# Why are we doing this now?

## Research Says!.....

### These are the critical components of sustainable SG

1. Funding -
2. Materials/Maintenance -
3. Instruction – Lessons – Activities in the garden
4. People – “A committee committed to the instructional school garden is the most important step towards success.” – Report\*

\* Best Practices Models for Implementing, Sustaining, and Using Instructional School Gardens in California

# Sustainable garden systems rely on:

- ✓ Administration and/or district support and promotion
- ✓ Teacher comfort in utilizing school gardens
- ✓ Parents/community volunteer and financial support
- ✓ Garden coordinator – supported by the school or an outside organization



# What do we hope to get out of this exercise?

Integrated and sustainable SG



Commitment and Excitement

- Vision Statements for promotion and direction
- Identify assets who can help meet the goals
- Coordination between partners
- Courage through Shared tasks

# Why is a school garden important to you?



# Top 3-6 values:

- Consider existing school values and list your school garden values on a whiteboard or paper sheets
  - Ex: exposure to healthy foods
  - Ex: hands on learning
  
- What are the most important school garden values – dry erase dots on whiteboard or sticker votes on paper

# Formulate a broad vision statement for top 3 listed value

## □ Why School Garden?

- Value # 1
- Value # 2
- Value # 3



- Create a vision statement about how the garden meets each value and contributes to the school/community
  - Ex: “The garden supports student understanding across academic curriculum”
  - Ex: The garden provides connections between the school and the greater community

# Vision # 1 – What's working? What are the needs?

## Components of sustainable SG

1. Physical space (materials/maintenance) -
2. Instruction (student experience)– Lessons – Clubs
3. People (Parents, students, Staff, Americorps, F2S)
4. Funding –

# First match some of the needs with some of the haves – Asset mapping.

- Pick 2-3 things to do in the next 4-6 months then talk about what the next 2-3 years might look like.
- People need to be putting tasks into their calendar in order to meet goals



# How do we meet each vision?

## □ Vision # 1



- What SMART goals accomplish this vision? (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely)
  - Funding
  - Materials/Maintenance
  - Instruction: timing/curriculum
  - People
  
- Who leads and who helps with each element?

# How do we meet each vision?

## □ Vision # 2



- What SMART goals accomplish this vision? (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely)

- Funding

- Materials/Maintenance

- Instruction: timing/curriculum

- People

- Who leads and who helps with each element?

# How do we meet each vision?

## □ Vision # 3



- What SMART goals accomplish this vision? (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely)
  - Funding
  - Materials/Maintenance
  - Instruction: timing/curriculum
  - People
  
- Who leads and who helps with each element?