Growing a School Garden

Funding Sources:

PTO/PTA funds to support garden

District funds if garden aligns with required curriculum

Fundraising for schools such as High Moving Organic Seeds and Flower Power

Seed Savers Exchange donates seeds to school gardens

Check with local nature nonprofit organizations they may donate soil and seeds

Western Growers Foundation School Garden Grant for California and Arizona schools

Whole Kids Foundation Grants for Gardens and Bees

Annie’s Grants for Gardens

Fiskar’s Project Orange Thumb Community Garden Grants

Vermont Community Garden Network Grants

Key points for starting a garden:

Choose a space that allows enough space and sunlight (at least 6 hours daily). Make sure space is accessible to students and teachers.

Recommend using raised beds. Improves access to garden, less weeding and maintenance.

Look at a variety of garden designs. Recommend trying the square foot gardening method to plant a variety of vegetables in a small amount of space.

Make sure that you have a water source.

Choose good quality soil such as compost to diversify the soil food web and bring nutrients to flowers and vegetables.

Make sure to have an assortment of materials/tools such as buckets, shovels, rakes, spades, gloves, labeling sticks, twine, hose, and scissors.