

# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP SNAPSHOT

The CitySprouts program opens the door to garden-based education for thousands of children each year. Our partnership with teachers deepens children’s learning throughout a child’s elementary and middle school journey. Children become more engaged in ways that are critical to their success in writing, reading, science, social studies and math skills. They develop more respect for the environment and nature. The practice of tasting the food they’ve grown in the garden sets children on a path toward life-long healthy food choices.

Our schoolyard gardens are designed for student exploration– with a variety of sensory plants including edible ones; a diversity of ecosystems, featuring a healthy compost; and areas that support big group gathering, small group work and individual exploration. Our staff provide weekly targeted support to teachers to help them create inquiry-based learning for their students in the garden and meaningful follow-on in the classroom.

More than 300 teachers in 19 schools used their school garden for instruction for over 6,500 children last year. This year, we serve elementary schools district-wide in Cambridge Public School District and an equal-sized cohort in Boston Public School District.



## MINDS-ON LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN

“We were able to take the 4th grade science curriculum and make it more hands-on, which is great for my class of all English Language Learners.”

–4th grade teacher

“My students learned a lot about observing objects in nature. They learned to take their time and look closely, and to record what they saw. They practiced making drawings with labels and writing descriptive words about what they observed. They also learned vocabulary that was new to them.”

–2nd grade teacher

“My children love being out in the garden and they always come back very excited and wanting to learn more.”

–Kindergarten teacher

CitySprouts is supported by the following key partnerships:



# IMPACT

## CITYSPROUTS HELPS CHILDREN LEARN.

- 97% of teachers find that the garden experience increases students' curiosity about the natural world
- 89% of teachers find that time spent in the garden increased their students' comfort outside
- 80% of teachers find the garden an asset for their English Language Learning students
- 79% of teachers find that the garden experience makes curriculum more accessible to special education learners

## CITYSPROUTS IMPROVES CHILDREN'S SCIENCE SKILLS.

- 69% of teachers find that students ask deeper questions as a result of garden-based lessons
- 68% of teachers find that students are more confident planning and carrying out investigations as a result of garden-based lessons
- 52% of teachers find that students are more confident analyzing and interpreting data as a result of garden-based lessons

## CITYSPROUTS IS A VALUED RESOURCE TO TEACHERS.

- 96% of teachers find that the garden helps them create meaningful hands-on learning opportunities for their students
- 91% find that garden lessons/activities create valuable opportunities for teacher-student interaction

We measure impact from data collected through weekly records of Garden Coordinators' teacher interactions (Garden Coordinator Logs) and an annual survey of teachers. Outcomes are based on 200 teacher responses.

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**"We get outside and learn where our food comes from. Students have the chance to collaborate and discover new things together. Going out to the garden is one of the highlights of our week."** -4th grade teacher

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**"Much of what happens in the garden or using the garden to inspire curriculum involves cooperative work. This was something my students needed to work on this year."** -5th grade teacher

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**"I know that there are so many ways to connect the garden to the curriculum... but honestly, I find so much value in my students getting out into the soil, digging, planting, weeding, and learning firsthand where their food comes from. This opportunity is invaluable for my students."** -Kindergarten teacher