

# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP SNAPSHOT

We have never engaged in project-based learning like we did this year. Thank you for allowing us the resources and expertise to grow our students understanding of Earth & Life Science.”

–Henderson K-12 Inclusion School, Boston Public Schools

“My preschool students took real ownership and responsibility for the work we did over there, weeding the box, starting our seeds and then transferring them to the garden and tending to them. I saw a true sense of pride emerge when our plants started to thrive.”

–Haggerty School, Cambridge Public Schools

“We studied plants and went to visit the garden to harvest some vegetables which was a wonderful hands-on way for the kids to understand where their food comes from.”

–Cambridgeport School, Cambridge Public Schools

“It gave me experiential ideas for my English Language Learners to gain a real world understanding of concepts we were learning about.”

–Graham & Parks School, Cambridge Public Schools

“Kids explored bugs and dirt, some for the first time! Some have never seen roots.”

–Henderson K-12 Inclusion School, Boston Public Schools



CitySprouts helps children learn by exploring the natural world through the schoolyard garden. Through hands-on, minds-on activities in the CitySprouts garden, children from all walks of life build stronger language skills, science skills & math skills. Working together in the garden helps them develop healthy social emotional skills for life. Garden-based inquiry and real world applications of what they learn in the classroom allows children to see science in their everyday world, and to see themselves as scientists.

From September to June, our garden educators give on-site targeted support to teachers at our partner schools. They help teachers use their school garden for hands-on extensions to school and district science, English language arts and other curricula. They support teachers using the garden on their own, and creating meaningful follow-on lessons back in the classroom.

*We work with public elementary and K-8 schools in Cambridge and Boston, in 2017-18 serving a total school population of over 8,000 students and 350 teachers.*

CitySprouts is supported by the following key partnerships:





## CITYSPROUTS HELPS CHILDREN LEARN

“Exploring in the garden, and recording our observations, has been an integral part of our connection to the Organisms Science unit throughout the year.”

–Morse School, Cambridge Public Schools

*Teachers report that garden-based learning makes a positive difference for their students by*

- making the curriculum more accessible to English Language learners and to special education students
- increased opportunities for meaningful hands-on learning
- students asking deeper questions
- practice in planning & carrying out investigations
- increased curiosity about the natural environment
- increased comfort being outside

## CITYSPROUTS IMPROVES CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

“Our garden coordinator is knowledgeable and patient. He makes our students feel welcome and willing to try new things.” –Henderson K-12 Inclusion School, Boston Public Schools

*Garden-based learning supports children’s physical and social emotional health through*

- increased positive teacher-student interactions
- improved collaboration & teamwork
- practice in critical thinking & problem solving
- opportunities for creativity & imagination
- increased interest in fruits & vegetables

“The garden provides valuable experiences for preschoolers who otherwise might not get their hands in dirt, find joy in looking at bugs and worms, or watch food grow from plant to seed... It is unlikely that our preschoolers would have such rich, hands-on learning opportunities without the garden.”  
–Peabody School, Cambridge Public Schools

## NEW EARLY EDUCATION IN THE GARDEN INITIATIVE

CitySprouts has embarked on a new initiative to strengthen teachers’ knowledge about and confidence in science education in the school garden. The program is based on a year-long series of site-based professional development workshops for participating schools’ early educators (teachers preschool to 2nd grade).