

# Creating a Garden Goal

## For your school garden

### Purpose

Before setting goals, it is important to reflect on the School Garden's current structure, or if starting from scratch, have a plan for the garden. Answering the questions below will help you envision the garden and set plans for the future. Next, complete the **Mapping Community Supports** worksheet.

### Understanding Your School Garden

Are you starting a new garden, or is it pre-existing? If pre-existing, how long has the garden been operating?

What elements are part of the garden? If starting a new garden, which element(s) would you like to include? Check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollinator garden    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs              | <input type="checkbox"/> Compost/vermicompost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers            | <input type="checkbox"/> None yet             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees/shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:               |

Describe the garden (or, if starting a new garden, the area where the garden will be built) in terms of physical position (location, area size) and existing structures (e.g. planters, greenhouse, raised beds, outdoor classroom space):

# How the Garden is Used

How many students currently use the garden? (all/most, some, few/none, not applicable)

How many teachers currently use the garden as a place of learning? (all/most, some, few/none, not applicable)

Frequency of use (daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, not applicable):

How do/will you use the produce from the garden?

Do you have:

- ☐ A designated garden coordinator or garden-planning committee?
- ☐ A plan in place for the garden in the event of a blended or at-home learning scenario?
- ☐ A plan in place for summer care and maintenance for the garden?

## Your Work So Far

What has been the biggest success in the garden? If starting a new garden, what do you think the biggest opportunities are?

What do you see as the biggest challenge with the garden? If starting a new garden, what do you foresee as the biggest obstacle?

What is the most significant impact of the garden on students? If starting a new garden, what do you envision will be the most significant impact of the garden on students?



# Setting Your Goal

It's time to decide which aspect of the gardening program you would like to focus on.

For each statement, indicate your answer by circling a number from 1 to 5.

1 = Strongly Disagree   2 = Disagree   3 = Undecided   4 = Agree   5 = Strongly Agree

- 1 2 3 4 5 I have the tools to plan the garden and related activities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 I have the tools to reflect on successes and opportunities.
- 1 2 3 4 5 My students are connecting with nature in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 My students are learning in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 My students are developing a sense of leadership and pride in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 My students are physically safe in the garden.
- 1 2 3 4 5 The garden is a welcoming and inclusive space.  
(e.g. accessible, embraces diversity)
- 1 2 3 4 5 The garden brings the school community together.  
(e.g. cross age buddies, volunteers)
- 1 2 3 4 5 The garden is well supported by the school community.  
(e.g. financial/human resources)
- 1 2 3 4 5 The food grown in the garden is used for school programs.
- 1 2 3 4 5 We share our garden stories and experiences with the school community.
- 1 2 3 4 5 We are taking steps to ensure that our garden can be used for years to come.

Referencing your answers above, **which aspect of your garden would you like to strengthen?**

This will serve as the foundation of your goal.

Now that you've decided the theme, we can dig deeper into what you want to accomplish.

Using the SMART goal guide and prompts provided on the next page, create your garden goal!



# SMART Goal Guide

**Specific:** Describe what you want to achieve in as much detail as possible.

**Questions to Consider:** Why is this important? Who should be involved?

**Measurable:** Describe how you will track your progress and success.

**Questions to Consider:** How will you know when you've accomplished your goal?

**Achievable:** On a scale of 1-10, how confident do you feel that you can achieve this?

If your response is less than 7, describe how you can adjust the goal to increase your confidence.

**Relevant:** Is now the right time for this goal? Does it fit with other goals within your school?

**Questions to Consider:** Can you still accomplish this goal if you are working under a different learning scenario (at-home learning, blended model)?

**Timely:** What is the time frame to complete your goal?

**Questions to Consider:** What parts of your goal need to be completed before the end of the school year? Are there milestones you can add to a goal timeline?

Using your answers above, create your SMART goal: