

## Certification

Allows you to bring your garden produce into the cafeteria. Look to back page on the process to complete certification. School gardens meeting all the program requirements receive a certificate of approval.

## Benefits of School Gardens

- Boost self esteem
- Teaches sustainability
- Teaches students to plant, care, and harvest food
- Teaches life skills
- Teaches math and science skills
- Increases exercise
- Teaches nutrition
- Students are more likely to try something they grew
- Improves student absenteeism rates
- Reduces vandalism and increases students pride in their school

## Garden to Cafeteria

Do you want to bring your garden produce to your school cafeteria? Just follow these steps.

1. Complete an application
2. Create a map of your garden
3. Create a Food Safety Plan
4. Schedule a site visit

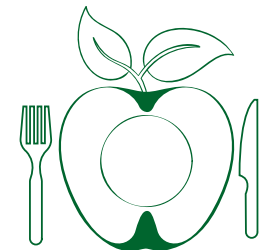
You can also get approval for:

- Rainwater harvesting
- Plant-based and/or manure-based composting

Read inside for more information on the procedures.



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School Garden Program  
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Arizona Department of  
Health Services  
School Garden Program

# ADHS School Garden Program: Garden to Cafeteria

## Application

The application is a one page document that asks about the description of your garden. Specifically:

- Name and location of school
- Garden manager
- Products to be grown
- Water source
- Soil amendments and lead testing

## Food Safety Plan

The Food Safety Plan is a living document that demonstrates food safety risks are evaluated and addressed to support the health and safety of students and garden volunteers. The plan must include the following:

- Land History—identifying any potential sources of contamination, pest and weed control, and security measures of garden.
- Water source—identifying water source as either from a municipal water source, well water, surface water, or rainwater harvesting.
- Soil Composition and amendments—if you are using existing soil, a lead test might be required. Soil amendments should come from a commercial supplier or meet the composting requirements.
- Gardener Hygiene and illness—when harvesting, ensure all workers wash their hands and do not work in the garden when sick.
- Produce Contact Surfaces—when harvesting, ensure all produce contact surfaces have been washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

## Map

The map is a one page document that identifies the location of the garden and other items of interest. Specifically, the map must show the location of the following:

- Beds
- Water source
- Fencing and school buildings
- Potential sources of contamination (e.g. parking lots, animals, compost, septic systems, trash cans)

## Scheduling a Site Visit

After completing the application, garden map, and food safety plan, contact the Program at 602-364-3952 or [SchoolGarden@azdhs.gov](mailto:SchoolGarden@azdhs.gov) to schedule a site visit.

## Rainwater Harvesting and Composting

Rainwater harvesting and composting must be approved before they are used in the garden. Requirements include:

### Rainwater Harvesting

- Follow Good Rainwater Harvesting Guidelines
- Complete a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and attestation

### Composting

- Must follow plant-based and/or manure-based composting guidelines
- Complete a SOP and attestation

