

Montclair D.I.G.S.

District Initiative for Gardening in Schools

Sponsored by MFEE and Partners for Health

Thank you for your interest in the Montclair School Garden initiative. Our goal is to help each school develop and maintain school vegetable gardens for the benefit of the students and the extended Montclair community.

Each school which demonstrates administrative support for a school vegetable garden is eligible to receive grant funds of up to \$1500 during the initial two years, and up to \$250 per year following review of the garden's progress.

Students should be engaged in hands-on gardening activities, including, but not limited to, planting, harvesting, and eating any produce grown in the garden. Each school can customize garden-based curricula to fit their magnet theme. Schools may also choose to donate some of their harvest to local food banks and soup kitchens as a community outreach.

Gardening guidelines:

- The produce should be grown in raised garden beds with good quality top-soil, using organic gardening methods.
- Children should wash their hands with soapy water prior to handling produce, and again after gardening.
- Children should wear gloves and closed-toe shoes while gardening.
- Any child who is ill should not work in the garden.
- All produce should be washed with clean tap water prior to consumption.
- The school nurse should be apprised of any upcoming tastings and children with food allergies should be identified in advance.

Grant recipients will receive a D.I.G.S. gardening kit which will contain: A classroom set of gardening gloves, a set of trowels, and a wheelbarrow.

Grant guideline:

- Grant money can be held by a school's PTA treasurer as a separate line-item and receipts should be submitted for reimbursement. In lieu of this receipts may be submitted directly to DIGS via MFEE.
- If possible, school garden purchases should be made through our selected vendors.

