

California School Garden Survey

1. California School Garden Education Survey

Life Lab, in collaboration with the California School Garden Network, is conducting a survey of California School Gardens. The information gathered from this survey will help those that are creating and supporting school garden projects across the state and nation.

Please help spread the word of this survey via your school garden team and larger networks.

Our goal is for every school in California to respond to the survey. For schools that do not have gardens we want to know what the barriers are. For schools with gardens we want to know what makes them work and what resources are needed to sustain them.

IF YOUR SCHOOL DOES NOT HAVE GARDEN PROGRAM THE SURVEY WILL TAKE LESS THAN 5 MINUTES.

FOR THOSE RESPONDING THAT HAVE A GARDEN THE SURVEY SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 20 MINUTES TO COMPLETE.

Please ensure that this survey is answered by the people who will have the most in-depth knowledge about your school garden and its functions. If there are multiple coordinators of your garden please communicate with them regarding who will be answering the survey to reduce the chances of duplicate survey responses for your school garden.

Survey results will be available on www.lifelab.org and www.csgn.org by the summer of 2011.

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More information on this survey and past CA school garden surveys can be found here
<http://www.lifelab.org/2010/12/schoolgardensurvey/>

2. Identifying Information

1. Your Name

2. Your role in supporting the school garden?

- Community Volunteer
- Teacher
- School Administrator
- Other School Staff
- Parent Volunteer
- Non-profit support organization
- Other support organization

* 3. Email Address

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* 4. School Name

* 5. School Address

* 6. School City

* 7. School Zip

* 8. County

* 9. School District

* 10. School Enrollment (best estimate)

3. Basics

* 11. What best describes your school's grade breakdown?

PreK

Elementary

K-8

Middle School/Junior high

High school/senior high

Continuation high school

Other (please specify)

12. What is your school type?

Public

Charter

Private

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13. What best describes the neighborhood your school is in?

Urban

Rural

Suburban

14. Does your school have a garden or garden program?

Yes

No

4. Lack of School Garden

15. Please choose all applicable reasons that best describe why your school does not have a school garden.

- Lack of staffing
- Little to no knowledge about gardening
- Lack of gardening supplies
- Lack of funding
- Difficulty linking to core academic standards
- Lack of volunteers
- No interest in having a garden
- Inadequate space
- The risk of vandalism
- Time constraints
- Few or no instructional materials
- Technical assistance with gardening
- Other

Other (please specify)

5. School Garden Basics

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16. How long has your garden been operating? (when was it first created)

- within the last year
- 2 years ago
- 3 years ago
- 4 years ago
- 5-7 years ago
- 8-10 years ago
- 11-13 years ago
- 13-15 years ago
- 16-20 years ago
- 21-25 years ago
- 26-30 years ago
- 31-35 years ago
- 36-40 years ago
- 41-45 years ago
- 46-50 years ago
- 50 plus years ago

17. How would you describe your garden? (select all that apply)

- In the ground in one or more areas
- Potted plants inside or outside classrooms
- Planters/ pots
- Off school campus
- Raised bed in one or more areas
- Other
- Greenhouse

Other (please specify)

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18. What types of plants exist/will be grown in your school garden this academic year? (select all that apply)

- Vegetables
- Herbs
- Fruits
- Ornamentals
- Nuts
- California native plants
- Wildlife habitat
- Other

Other/Comments (please specify)

19. What is done with the plants grown in the garden? (select all that apply)

- Used in School Lunch
- Used for academic study
- Sold
- Donated
- Composted
- Harvested for consumption and eaten during garden time
- Harvested for consumption and eaten during other school time activities

If you selected sold or donated, please specify

20. What features does your garden have? (select all that apply)

- Sinks
- Food prep/Kitchen area
- Weather station
- Compost area
- Worm bins
- Tool shed/storage area
- Outdoor teaching area (benches, tables, seated gathering area, amphitheater, etc.)
- Theme gardens
- Rainwater harvesting
- Solar panels
- Pond
- Interpretive signage
- Automated irrigation system
- Greenhouse
- Domestic animals (chickens, ducks, rabbits, etc.)

Other feature(s) not listed above (please specify)

6. School Garden Use

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21. When is the garden used? (select all that apply)

- During class instruction time
- Before school
- During recess
- Summer Program/Camp
- After school
- Non-school community uses

Other (please specify)

22. What grade level(s) participate in garden programming at your school? (select all that apply)

- Pre k
- Sixth
- Kindergarten
- Seventh
- First
- Eighth
- Second
- Ninth
- Third
- Tenth
- Fourth
- Eleventh
- Fifth
- Twelfth

23. What percentage of your school's students do you estimate visit the garden for formal instruction per academic year?

- 10%
- 60%
- 20%
- 70%
- 30%
- 80%
- 40%
- 90%
- 50%
- 100%

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24. Rank who most often teaches students in the garden? (Select up to 5)

	Teaches least	Teaches somewhat less	Teaches often	Teaches more often	Teaches most often
Master Gardeners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College interns/volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid garden coordinator (school staff)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid non-school staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older students (buddy teaching)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

7. School Garden Use

25. Is the school garden used for academic instruction?

Yes

No

8. School Garden Use

26. Is the garden used to teach mathematics?

Yes

No

9. Mathematics Cont. & English Language Arts

27. How would you characterize garden-based mathematics instruction at your school? (Select all that apply)

- Garden related mathematics concepts are taught in a lesson prior to or after garden class time.
- Math skills are reinforced through garden instruction.
- Explicit math lessons are taught in the garden.

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28. Is the garden used to teach English-Language Arts?

Yes

No

10. English Language Arts Cont. & History/ Social Studies

29. How would you characterize garden-based English-Language Arts instruction at your school? (Select all that apply)

- Garden-related English/Language Arts concepts are specifically taught in a lesson prior to or after garden class time.
- English/Language Arts skills are reinforced during garden instruction time.
- English/Language Arts lessons are taught during garden class time (ie. journaling, composition etc.).

30. Is the garden used to teach History/ Social Sciences?

Yes

No

11. History/ Social Science Cont. & Science

31. How would you characterize garden-based History/ Social Studies instruction at your school? (Select all that apply)

- Garden-related History/ Social Studies concepts are specifically taught in a lesson prior to or after gardening garden class time.
- History/ Social Studies concepts are reinforced through garden instruction.
- History/ Social Studies lessons are taught during garden class time.

32. Is the garden used to teach Science?

Yes

No

12. Science

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33. How would you characterize garden-based science instruction at your school? (Select all that apply)

- Garden-related science concepts are taught in a lesson prior to or after garden class time.
- Science concepts are reinforced through garden instruction.
- Explicit science lessons are taught in the garden.
- Students create and conduct their own science projects in the garden.

13. Academics

34. Which of the following non-core subjects are taught using the garden? (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Special education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Micro Enterprise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign language | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning/Community Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home economics | |

Other (please specify)

14. Support, Resources, and Observations

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35. What educational resources and materials are used to teach core academic subjects when the garden is a learning laboratory? (select all that apply)

Textbooks (specify title)

Garden-based Learning

Publications (specify publication)

Lesson plans created by you or other educators (if yes type yes)

Websites (specify organization and addresses)

Materials received at workshops or seminars (specify seminars and materials)

Other (specify)

36. Which of the following positive observations have you made in your school garden participants? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased environmental attitude/attitudes | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved attitude towards school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased community spirit | <input type="checkbox"/> Sense of volunteerism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased self confidence | <input type="checkbox"/> Improvements in health and nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased social skills/behaviors | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved motor skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased leadership skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic gains |

Other (please specify)

37. Describe any negative observations that you have seen in your school garden participants.

38. Would you define your school garden as part of Farm to School programming? (Farm to School programs connect schools with local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education, and supporting California's farmers.)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I hadn't heard of Farm to School till now

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15. Paid Support Staff

39. Are there any paid staff that manage the garden or teach in the garden outside of classroom teachers? Select yes if there are any (school or non school) support staff that receive any types of funds for garden programming.

Yes

No

16. Paid Support Staff

40. What is the hourly pay rate range for paid (non classroom teacher) garden support staff? (if you have more than one paid staff list the higher paid staff. If garden staff is paid with an annual stipend, divide the stipend amount by the estimated hours worked to come up with an hourly rate)

1-5\$/hour

21-25\$/hr

6-10\$/hr

26-30\$/hr

11-15\$/hr

30-35\$/hr

16-20\$/hr

35+\$/hr

41. During the academic year, on average, how many hours per week do paid staff (NON-CLASSROOM TEACHERS) work/teach in the garden? (For multiple staff please list separately)

42. During the academic year, on average, how many hours per week do CLASSROOM TEACHERS work/teach in the garden?

17. Funding and Support

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43. Rank the top three elements that would most benefit your school garden program overall. (select three)

	Less beneficial	Beneficial	Most beneficial
Administration support	jñ	jñ	jñ
Parent volunteers	jñ	jñ	jñ
Garden coordinator staff position	jñ	jñ	jñ
Time scheduled within the school day for garden instruction	jñ	jñ	jñ
Community volunteers	jñ	jñ	jñ
Funding	jñ	jñ	jñ
Technical assistance for gardening	jñ	jñ	jñ
Professional development for school educators	jñ	jñ	jñ
Other	jñ	jñ	jñ

If you answered other please specify

44. Rank the top three factors/resources that would assist your school garden being used as an academic instructional tool. (select three)

	Less Helpful	Helpful	Most helpful
Access to Garden Based Curriculum/education materials	jñ	jñ	jñ
Teacher training in gardening skills	jñ	jñ	jñ
Teacher training in garden-based learning instruction	jñ	jñ	jñ
Teacher training in outdoor classroom management	jñ	jñ	jñ
Lesson planning time	jñ	jñ	jñ
Encouragement from administrators to use the garden as an instructional tool	jñ	jñ	jñ
Other	jñ	jñ	jñ

If you selected other please list resource

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45. In the past three years what types of garden based professional development has your garden educator staff received? (select all that apply)

- None
- On site school sponsored
- Off site workshop
- Conferences or seminars

46. What specific professional development topics would you attend or like to see offered in your area?

- Garden skills
- Outdoor classroom management
- Garden based curricular support (specify subject matter)

Other (please specify)

47. What types of program evaluation or assessment has been conducted for your school garden program in the past five years? Skip if you haven't conducted assessment for your garden in the past five years.

18. Funding and Support

48. During the last academic year what was your annual total school garden budget (materials and support staff)?

49. During the last academic year how was your funding divided? (Answer in percentages)

Materials (tools, plants, hardscaping, etc.)	<input type="text"/>
Maintenance Staff	<input type="text"/>
Instruction Staff	<input type="text"/>
Other (list resource(s) and percentage)	<input type="text"/>

19. Funding and Support

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50. During this and last academic year who has your school received funds from? (select all that apply)

- School or district funds
- Individual donations
- Community/business donations
- Grants
- PTA/PTO funds

Other (please specify)

51. During this and last academic year, what support organizations collaborate with your school garden? (select all that apply)

- Non-profit organizations
- After school programs
- Network for A Healthy California
- University partnerships
- Farms

Other (please specify)

20. Funding and Support

52. Rank who provides the most ongoing garden site maintenance. (Select up to 4)

	Less	Somewhat less	Some support	Most support
Master Gardeners	jn	jn	jn	jn
Parent volunteers	jn	jn	jn	jn
College interns	jn	jn	jn	jn
Other volunteers	jn	jn	jn	jn
Paid garden coordinator (school staff)	jn	jn	jn	jn
Paid non-school support organization staff	jn	jn	jn	jn
Teachers	jn	jn	jn	jn
Students	jn	jn	jn	jn
Custodian	jn	jn	jn	jn
Other	jn	jn	jn	jn

If you marked other please specify

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53. Rank who takes the most responsibility for management of the garden. (Select up 4)

	Less responsibility	Somewhat less responsibility	Some responsibility	Most responsibility
Master Gardeners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parent volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
College interns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paid garden coordinator (school staff)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paid non-school support organization staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teachers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Custodian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrator	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you marked other please specify

54. During the last academic year, what was the average number of total hours per week spent by volunteers working or teaching in the garden?

55. If there is summer maintenance of the school garden, who is participating in this? (select all that apply)

- Students
- Master gardeners
- Custodian
- Teachers
- Parent volunteers
- Paid garden coordinator (school staff)
- Paid non school support organization staff
- College interns
- Other volunteers

Other (please specify)

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56. If someone was to grant your garden \$10,000 for the next year what would you spend that money on? (rank from most likely to least likely. Please do not mark items that you would not spend the money on)

	Less likely	Somewhat less likely	Likely	Somewhat likely	Most likely
Physical site (gathering areas, plants, hardscape, irrigation, signage)	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Paid staff	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Teacher training	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Curriculum materials	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ
Other	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ	jñ

If you marked other please specify

21. Survey Complete

Thank you for your time and effort. Your survey answers will be analyzed and reviewed for further benefit to the field of garden education. A summary of this survey will be available at the California School Garden Network website in the spring of 2011.