

Growing the Whole Child through Garden-Based Education



Our Growing Partnership

Life Lab cultivates children's love of learning, healthy food, and nature through garden-based education. In partnership with PVUSD's commitments to the Whole Child, Whole Family, and Whole Community, Life Lab is providing curriculum and instruction for PVUSD students to explore Next Generation Science, language, fresh vegetables and fruits, the environment, food systems, and community connections that sustain us - all with curiosity, wonder and joy!

Growing Access and Opportunity

Current partner elementary schools are Amesti, Ann Soldo, Hall District, H.A.Hyde, T.S. MacQuiddy, Ohlone & Starlight

Life Lab's Fundraising Goal

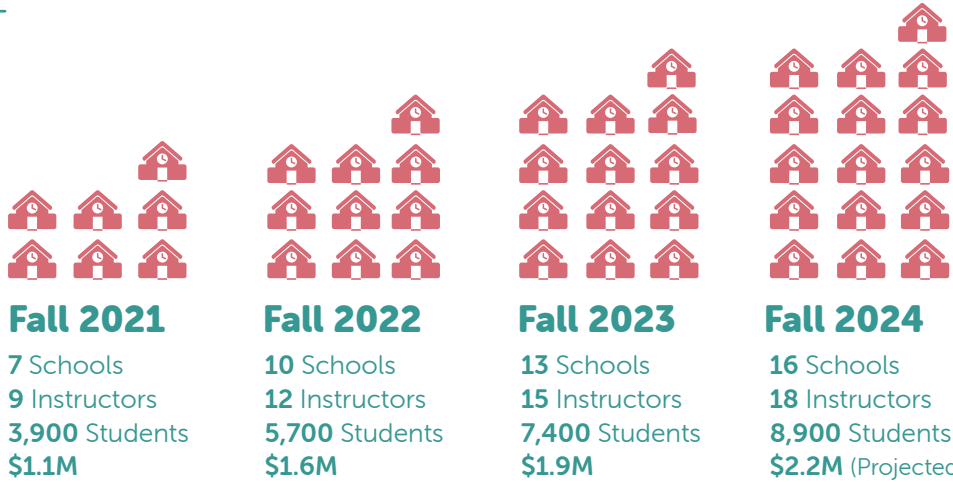
\$350K

Per Year

Including

Curriculum, Evaluation, & Professional Development

PVUSD
Investment



16
Schools with
Garden Classrooms and Programs

Increasing Student Time in Garden Classrooms

Scaling Successful Program Model

Garden Classrooms Support Whole Child Learning and Wellness

Curiosity & Wonder

Family Community & Cultural Connections

Social Emotional Well-being

Science Literacy

Hands-on Learning

Language Literacy

Healthy Eating

Identity Agency & Belonging

Love of Nature

Peer Communication & Collaboration



Cultivating the Support of Our Community

Pajaro Valley students deserve optimal learning spaces and engagement to expand their opportunities for education and wellness. Life Lab is honored to partner with PVUSD to grow such spaces and learners. With 42 years of experience in the field and a knowledge network of more than 2,000 organizations across the country, we are prepared to ensure that garden-based education thrives locally for generations to come. The transformative model PVUSD and Life Lab are implementing now makes garden classrooms a core asset of every elementary school, opening up rich pathways and lifelong opportunities for children with a wide array of learning styles and needs. Special one-time public funding is helping PVUSD scale these programs. Their success will also depend on collaborative support from agencies, foundations, individuals, and the community at large to ensure that PVUSD students continue to have thriving garden classrooms and healthy, inspired futures.

Community Partners

- 🍏 PVUSD Food & Nutrition Services
- 🍏 PVUSD Extended Learning
- 🍏 Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley
- 🍏 Emeril Lagasse Foundation
- 🍏 Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
- 🍏 Monterey Peninsula Foundation
- 🍏 Sage Garden Project
- 🍏 Second Harvest Food Bank



"At PVUSD, we believe in providing personalized learning that supports all learners at their point of need. It is important to establish programs that motivate and engage students to learn about themselves and the rich agricultural community around them. PVUSD has seen the significant impact Life Lab has had on students who participate in the program. The garden-centered and hands-on curriculum provides students with a unique and proven way to learn Next Generation Science Standards while positively impacting their social-emotional learning. We are proud to be one of the leading Districts across our nation implementing Garden Classrooms as we expand the program to every elementary school in PVUSD."

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools



Cultivating and Uplifting Student Voices

"I think it would be nice for most schools to have a garden because it's a space for kids to go to, to be calm."

4th Grade Student, PVUSD Safe Spaces Program (2020-21), National Coast to Coast Virtual School Gardens Tour, April 2021



Watch Video

