

## **Guidelines for 2023 School Garden Grants**

The Extension Master Gardener<sup>SM</sup> Volunteers of Buncombe County (EMGVs) have a School Garden Grants Program. The mission of that program is to provide monetary grants and support to public schools in Buncombe County that integrate gardening principles into the curriculum, connecting students to nature and leading to a healthy, sustainable community.

***Grant applications must be submitted online by February 3, 2023.***

***Grants are awarded by March 1, 2023.***

The amount of grant awards will vary based on the number of schools applying and the funds available. Typical grants range from \$100 to \$500, with the average close to \$300.

***In reviewing grant requests, we consider the following criteria:***

- A plan with clear goals and objectives that shows how the program will be integrated into the curriculum;
- A sustainable program that shows that the garden is an extension of the classroom;
- Examples of how horticultural and evidence-based information and research-based principles will be used, including in math and science;
- Consistency of goals that match the budget of the grant; and,
- Commitments from staff, parents, and community partners.

***Some minimum requirements include:***

- The garden is on the school property.
- There is water in close proximity to the garden.
- Specific use of the monies requested.
- The online application is completely, accurately filled out and submitted on time. A year-end evaluation including receipts along with a narrative of things that worked or didn't work, student stories, and photos (due September 30, 2023).

We also look for an identified leader with contact information, responsibility for garden care if it is year-round, and a succession plan, as appropriate.

***What we fund:***

Start-up gardens;

Enhancement of established school gardens that grow students' skills;

Equipment replenishment; and,

Water conservation strategies and sustainable gardening.

To assist you in your approach to this grant, here is a sample list of things that we fund and don't fund:

What We Fund	What We Don't Fund
Seeds and plants (and starts) Mulch and compost Soil amendments Small hand tools Raised bed material Water conservation and strategy system items Wheelbarrows and wagons Vermiculture	Electronic devices (computers) Power tools Sheds and storage buildings Labor costs Heavy equipment Livestock

**Note:** An Extension Master Gardener Volunteer (EMGV) can assist with your planning for the grant application. This person can be available to answer your questions about planning the project and writing the application, supporting on-going project needs, and providing a list of possible additional resources. Our primary focus as Master Gardeners is education!