



Create a School Garden

5 Steps to Starting a Garden

- ✓ **Find a space** for the garden at your school. Ask your principal and facility manager for permission to use that space.
- **Develop a community** of students, staff, and clubs to support the garden.
- **Submit your ideas to the Sustainability Team!** They will help you determine what type of garden would be best for your school and connect you with garden partners.
- **Write your garden plan:**
 - *Draft a budget: How much will it cost to build the garden? How much is needed to keep it growing each year?*
 - *Write out a timeline for building the garden from start to finish.*
 - *Create a plan for use.*
 - *Draw a map of the plot.*
- **Submit your garden plan to First Call.** First Call will connect the garden team with DPS staff to answer any questions and provide approval.

Things to Think About

- How will the garden support learning and skill development?
- How will you ensure the garden is used by the school?
- What will your garden be primarily used for? It could be for growing food, an outdoor learning space, providing habitat, growing native plants, supporting pollinators, or a combination.
- Do you want an area for perennial plants or fruit trees?
- Do you need access to water separate from the irrigation system?
- How will the garden be maintained over the summer and breaks?
- How will gardening tools be securely stored?
- What will you do with the produce you grow?

The Denver Public School system has over 130 gardens and is committed to providing students opportunities to engage nature and grow food. [Click to download the Garden Coalition Manual.](#)



DENVER
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Sustainability

Connect with us about your garden plans:
dept_sustainability@dpsk12.net