



Garden to Cafeteria Program Resources

Below are resources to help school districts develop their own procedure for sourcing produce from the school garden. Through Policy Memo SP 32-2009, the USDA permits school food service to procure produce from school gardens, stating that a site's Nonprofit School Food Service Account can be used to purchase supplies for school gardens as well as produce grown in the school garden. The USDA offers tips via several publications for safe growing and harvesting of produce, but no enforceable certifications. It is left to individual school districts to develop such procedures as they see fit and in collaboration with their county environmental health department.

Informative Guides for Safe School Gardens

- USDA National Food Service Management Institute – **Food Safety Tips for School Gardens**
www.nfsmi.org
- University of Maryland Extension Office - **Food Safety in the School Garden**
www.growit.umd.edu
- Bon Appetit Management Company - **Student Gardens and Food Service** (designed for college campuses but gives a good overview of perspectives and process)
www.bamco.com/sustainable-food-service/student-garden-guide

Sample Policies and Procedures from around the nation

- Ventura Unified School District Healthy Schools Project – www.venturausd.org
- Denver Public Schools – www.sfdseedtotable.org
- New York City Schools - <http://growtolearn.org/view/GardentoSchoolCafe>

Many curricula and resources have been compiled at www.healthyschoolenvironment.org

“Training Resources” web page – Collected lessons and links for many topics including food safety, Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education, and more garden to cafeteria resources and examples.

“Farm to School District Profiles” web page – Video profiles from school districts around California focused on their Farm to School Programs but also illustrating their connections to school gardens.