WHAT IS A LEARNING GARDEN?

EDIBLE GARDEN | OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Big Green builds Learning Gardens, dynamic outdoor classrooms and productive edible gardens, in schools around the country. We recognize that each school and community is unique, which is why we make our gardens customizable. They are designed especially for each school by our team of landscape architects. The Learning Garden transforms urban schoolyards into vibrant gathering places bursting with life.

We pair each Learning Garden with support from our talented team of Garden Educators, whose job it is to help schools plant and harvest a thriving garden, and support teachers’ use of the Learning Garden as a teaching tool.

Big Green helps students dig into their education, thrive with nutritious foods and healthy habits, and become active participants in strengthening their communities.

The Learning Garden is a permanent feature in your school yard which brings growing real food to life as a part of the daily experience of students’ education.

Learning Gardens are ADA accessible outdoor classrooms built to fit organically into any school yard. The modular growing containers are installed in an inviting and engaging layout with close access to water, shade, and integrated seating. Learning Gardens are designed to be easily managed spaces which schools take ownership over and incorporate into the structure and culture of their school community.

Learning Gardens are installed centrally in school yards with open access to everyone. They are never placed behind fences in a conscious effort to invite the community to experience growing food and for students to build on classroom learning in the garden outside of class.
Each school with a Learning Garden forms a Garden Team made of school community members who direct and manage the Learning Garden.

The Learning Garden, paired with support and materials from your local Garden Educators, makes growing food and teaching in the garden easy. Classrooms are engaged in planting, growing, harvesting, and eating produce from the garden. Teachers augment the experience and impact of their garden through the integration of curriculum, lessons, and activities that are created, vetted, and provided by Big Green.

With a dedicated Garden Team and support from Big Green, Learning Gardens can be a transformative experience for students.

- 98% of teachers agree that the Learning Garden has increased their student’s knowledge of fruits and vegetables.
- Learning Garden students are 23% more likely to eat the vegetables provided to them at lunch.
- 93% of teachers see an increase in student participation when working in the Learning Garden.
- 86% of teachers agree that some subjects are more easily taught in the Learning Garden.
- Three out of four students talk to their parents about what they learn in the garden.
- 81% of Learning Garden teachers report parent involvement with Learning Garden activities.

Learning Garden schools cultivate a space that is safe, enriching, and full of opportunity. We are working to grow this impact, expanding our Learning Gardens and programming to new schools in new neighborhoods to build a healthier and more sustainable future.

“Big Green’s Learning Garden model and their extensive support helped us create experiential, cross-disciplinary lessons that give our students the chance to get outside and teachers the chance to engage students in creative ways”.

- Keystone Elementary

TO APPLY FOR A LEARNING GARDEN
Visit: www.BigGreen.org/apply

QUESTIONS? No problem.
GET IN TOUCH!
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