



September 2014, volunteers build 20 new garden beds at RCF





October 2015, one of 40 families harvesting from their garden

Now, about those school gardens...









Cesar Batalla School  
March 7, 2012

Cesar Batalla School  
October 13, 2012





Hector Sanchez, Principal of the school is also very handy with a wheelbarrow, as it turns out 😊







Garden Build at  
Madison  
Elementary  
School  
Bridgeport 2014





Garden Build at Curiale School – April 2012



Garden Build at Columbus School – June 2012



Garden Build at Hallen School – October 2012



Luis Marin School Garden Build – students 'get it done'















Seedlings ready for planting at Read Schools' new garden, donated by Sal Gilbertie



Mitzvah Day for the Conservative Synagogue in Westport, held at Read School in Bridgeport



Hallen School – planting in the new garden beds - September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012



Planting tulips, October 2011, Thomas Hooker School, Bridgeport CT



Interns teaching about worm composting to summer school students





Worm Compost lessons in the Classroom







The action of 'pulling a carrot out of the ground'...



...is to realize an unexpected gift from the earth



The experience brings its own level of hope, and a tasty treat!



'This carrot's for you...maybe not...'





Raise a carrot!

# Field Days at Reservoir Community Farm







Teacher, students and interns after planting spring crops 2013





**“Taste  
of  
Sunshine”**



**SUNGOLD TOMATOES**



## Challenges in the School Garden: Garden Ignored



“Legislators are passing laws requiring the teaching of elementary agriculture, to the confusion and consternation of the teachers, who are appalled by the vastness of the subject, their lack of preparation, and the apparent difficulty of fitting the new course into the curriculum for children.”



# Children's Gardens For Pleasure Health and Education

BY

HENRY GRISCOM PARSONS

SECRETARY AND PRACTICAL ADVISER OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FARM LEAGUE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL GARDENS,  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



OUT OF THE GROUND

## CONTENTS

### PART I

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TO RELIEVE POVERTY, SICKNESS AND INEFFICIENCY . . . . .	1
II. THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN A LABORATORY IN WHICH TO TEACH HOW WEALTH, HEALTH, COURAGE, ENERGY (FRESH AIR AND GOOD FOOD) AND HAPPINESS ARE TO BE GAINED . . . . .	3
III. "PRODUCTION IS TRANSPORTATION." GOOD ROADS AND PROGRESS . . . . .	10
IV. HOW THE GARDEN WORK TRAINS FOR OCCUPATIONS OTHER THAN GARDENING.—THE PEDAGOGY OF THE SPADE . . . . .	14
V. THE GARDEN A PLACE TO TEACH ECONOMY . . . . .	22
VI. "OUR GARDEN" . . . . .	27
VII. PLAY . . . . .	31
VIII. CIVIC TRAINING BY MEANS OF THE INDIVIDUAL PLOT . . . . .	33
IX. THE DIGNITY AND HONOR OF MANUAL LABOR . . . . .	34



GVI Interns, clearing an overgrown fence at Curiale School



Challenges in the School Garden: Change of Staff



Blackham School – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
The garden club planting for summer after Spring Harvest. By August they were enjoying squash, cucumber, beans, followed in the fall by carrots, beets, cabbage, kale and broccoli



## Challenges in the School Garden: Pests & Diseases



## Challenges in the School Garden: No Time to Teach





“Let’s just say it’s a matter of taste”

## Benefits of School Gardens:

Children who are familiar with growing their own food tend to **eat more fruits and vegetables** (Bell & Dymment, 2008), and are more inclined to continue healthy eating habits through adulthood (Morris & Zidenberg- Cherr, 2002).



**'Try it, you'll like it!'**







HIS OWN RAISING



USDA supports school gardens as a proven tactic for improving children's attitudes and consumption of produce, and for incorporating experiential nutrition and agriculture education into school curriculum.

**School Garden Programs are on the Rise in US Public Elementary Schools, but are Less Common in Schools with Economically Disadvantaged Student Populations**





# From the Garden E-Brief:

## *California Assembly Bill 1535 Funds Instructional Gardens for Public Schools*

FEBRUARY 10, 2016

FTG E-BRIEF 1.0

### **California Instructional School Gardens (CISG) California Assembly Bill 1535 (AB 1535) “Flourishing and Nourishing”**

Introduced by Assemblyman Fabian Nunez (D – Los Angeles), Speaker of the State Assembly, 2006. Signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2006, the purpose of this bill was to provide non-competitive grant funds to public schools wishing to provide instructional school gardens. For complete text, visit:

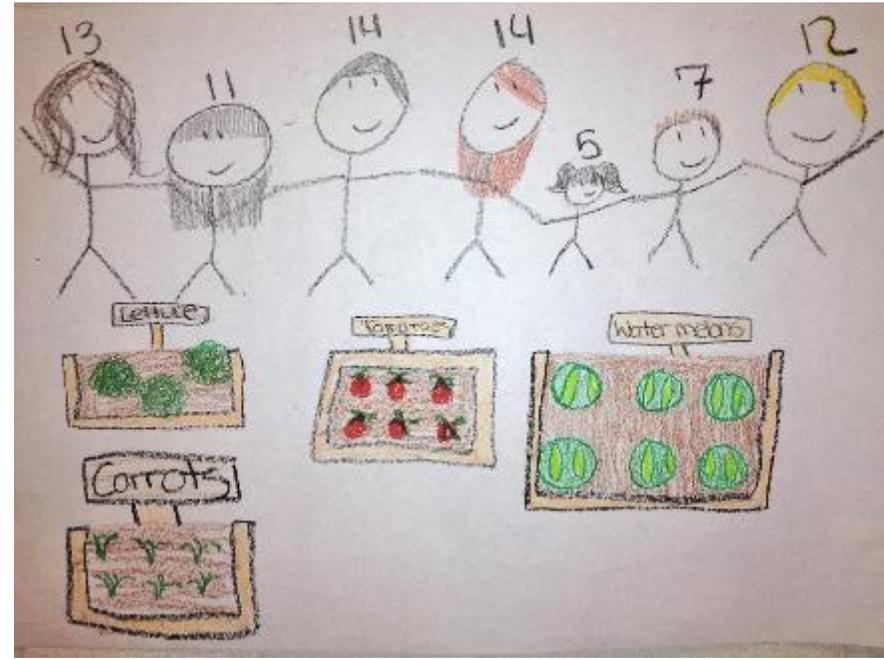
<http://info.sen.ca.gov>





















## SCHOOL GARDEN GRANTS





## **DONORS & PARTNERS – GVI in BRIDGEPORT**

**AmeriCorps VISTA & FoodCorps  
Builders Beyond Borders (B3)  
BuildOn  
Council Of Churches of Greater Bridgeport  
DEEP – Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation (FCCF)  
FoodCorps  
Hart’s Seed Co.  
Gilbertie’s Herb Farm  
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation  
The Hickories Organic Farm  
The Home Depot Bridgeport  
Main Street Resources  
Maura O’Malley, Head of Food Services, Bridgeport  
Mayor Bill Finch  
Merck Family Fund  
Newman’s Own Foundation  
Norcross Foundation  
Park City Schools and Community Alliance  
Partners For Places  
Peoples United Foundation  
Poko Management  
Sacred Heart University  
Sunrise Rotary  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**



**TO SUPPORT SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMS, WE:  
PLANT**

Garden Knowledge and Infrastructure



**NURTURE**

Curriculum and Teacher Training



**CROSS-POLLINATE**

Networking and Community Engagement







Madison Wierzel, FoodCorps member, teaches about 'Plant Parts We Eat' during a field day at the farm.

[Make the Case](#)[Plan for Success](#)[Create the Garden](#)[Learn in the Garden](#)[Keep it Growing](#)[Home](#)

# Welcome to School Garden Wizard!

Wizard  
direct

**Ask your questions here!**

A School Garden offers a wonderful, creative space in which children of all abilities can achieve something real that is valued by others.

Gardening and plant-based learning open a door to discovery of the living world. It stimulates even as it focuses and calms. Within the school environment, a garden offers an unparalleled platform to help kids achieve learning goals in ways that are recommended by the National Science Standards and most state and local educational bodies.

A School Garden requires a child's intellectual, emotional and social engagement with things that must be measured, counted, weighed, arranged, planned and cared for. It can yield gratifying and often surprising results for you and your students.

Quick Reference













