



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Culinary and Nutrition Services



2014-2015
Minneapolis Public Schools
School Garden Summary

YOUTH
FARM WHERE
LEADERSHIP
GROWS



In 2014, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Culinary and Nutrition Services and Youth Farm partnered to conduct a School Garden Survey with all Minneapolis Public Schools. This survey helped identify the current landscape of school gardens in the district and the areas that need the most support.

Thank you to the following people for their support in developing this survey and summary report: All of the administrators, teachers, parents, and staff from supporting organizations who filled out the 2014 MPS School Garden Survey

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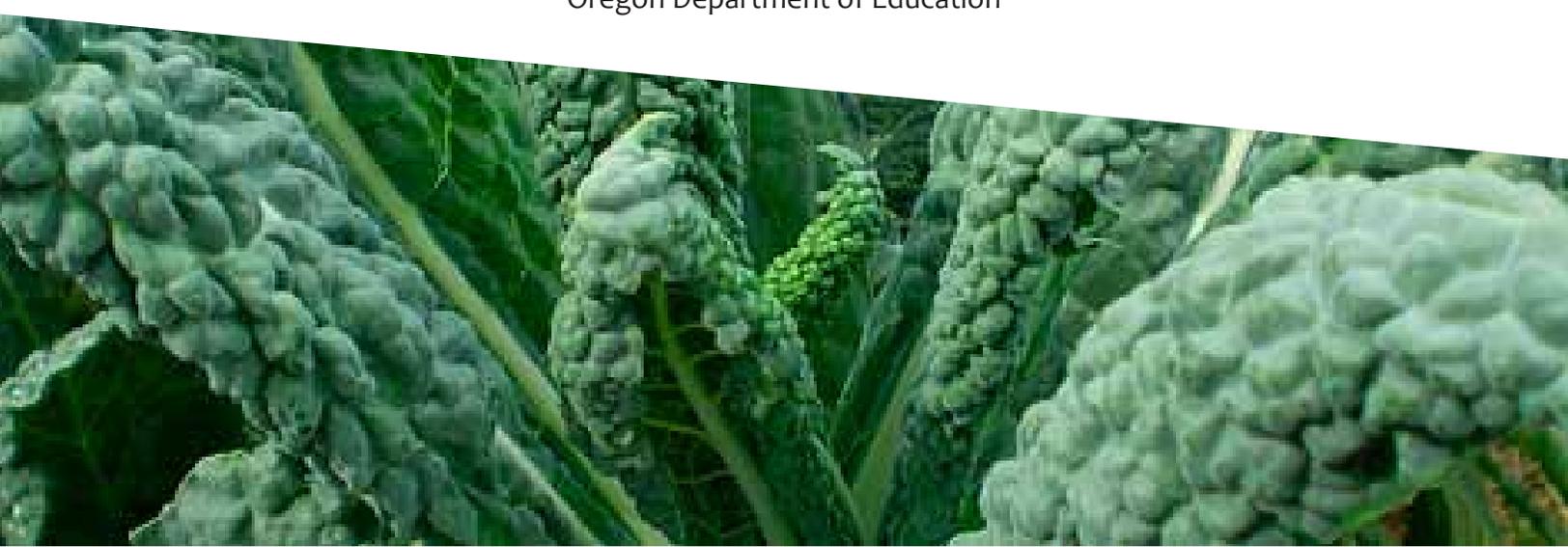
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BACKGROUND

Studies have shown the positive benefits that garden-based learning has on promoting and increasing academic achievement, community health, and active engagement. School gardens serve as safe places for students to learn social, emotional, and leadership skills. The 2014 MPS School Garden Survey results identify several positive observations in students who participated in their school garden:

- Increased attitudes towards the environment
- Increased social skills/behaviors
- Increased community engagement
- Improvements in health and nutrition

At a time when MPS is focused on improving student achievement through its strategic plan “Acceleration 2020”, the Culinary and Nutrition Services department is devoted to providing a variety of local and fresh fruits and vegetables to students, and District Wellness Champions are bringing more attention to the health and wellness of our students, the district is poised to play a larger role in supporting school gardens.

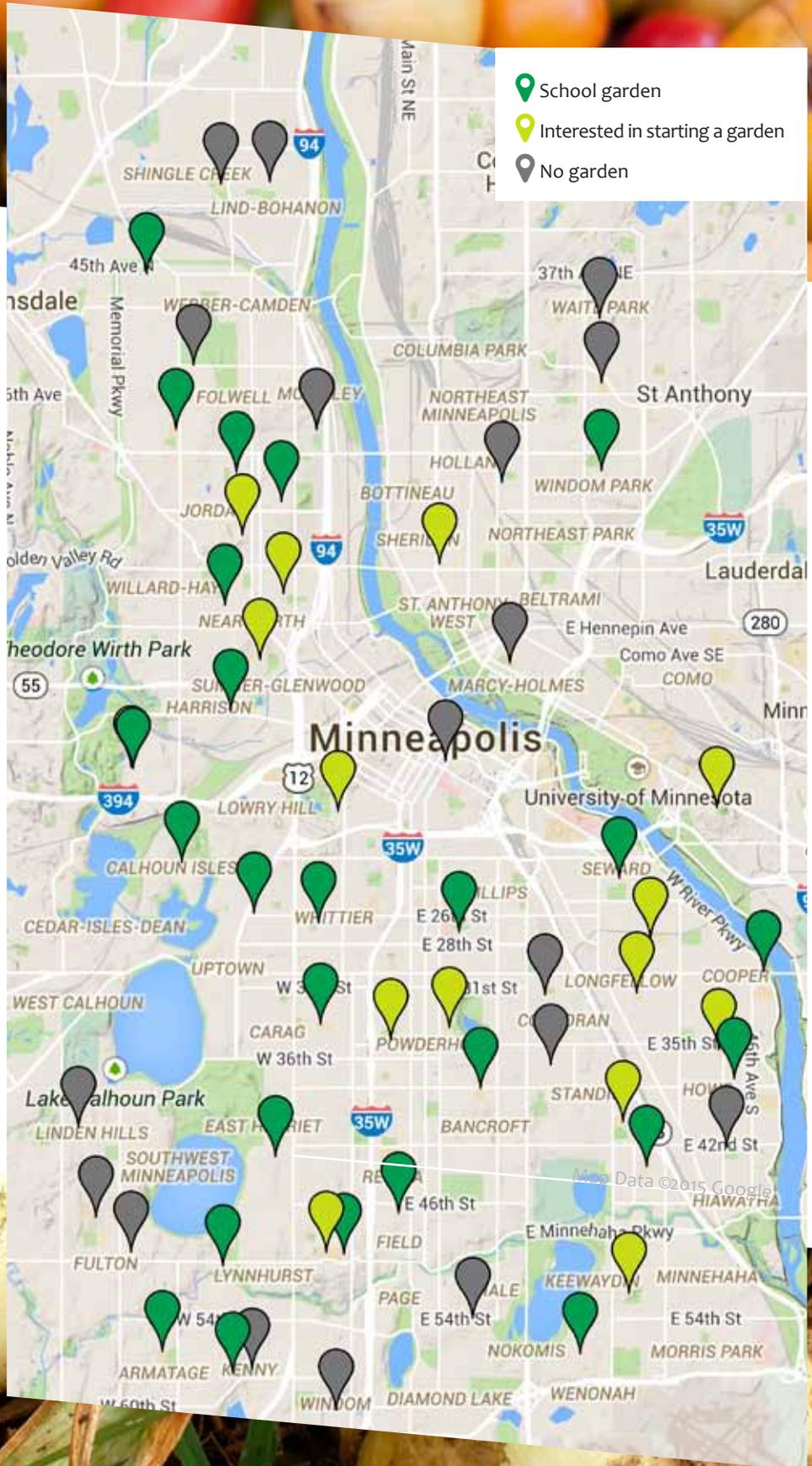
This summary provides some of the major findings from the 2014 MPS School Garden Survey, including data, quotes, summaries, and photos from several school gardens in the district. School administrators, teachers, parents, and staff from supporting organizations answered the survey questions, which are summarized here. The results demonstrate widespread interest in and support for school gardens throughout the district.

For more information, contact Andrea Northup, Farm to School Coordinator at andrea.northup@mpls.k12.mn.us or 612-668-2854.



SCHOOL GARDENS 2015

Andersen
 Anthony
 Anwatin
 Armatage
 Bancroft
 Barton
 Burroughs
 Dowling
 Field
 Hiawatha - Howe Campus
 Hmong International
 Jefferson
 Kenwood
 Lake Nokomis - Wenonah
 Loring
 Lucy Laney
 Lyndale
 Nellie Stone Johnson
 North
 Northrop
 Pillsbury
 Ramsey
 River Bend Edu. Center
 Seward
 Whittier





WHEN DID THE SCHOOL GARDEN START?

60

MPS schools surveyed

25

Schools have school gardens

15

Schools have both a garden & a salad bar

35

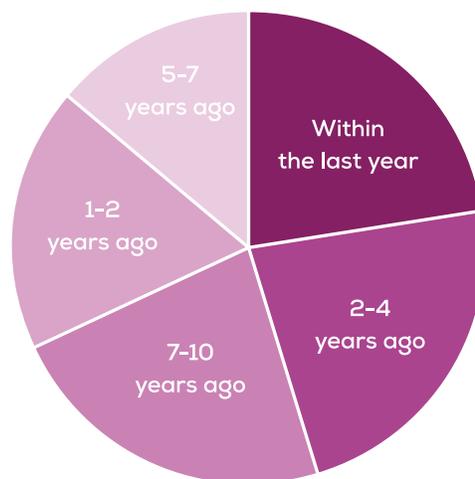
Schools do not have a school garden

17

Schools (out of those 35) that are interested in building a school garden

\$0-500

Average annual school garden budget



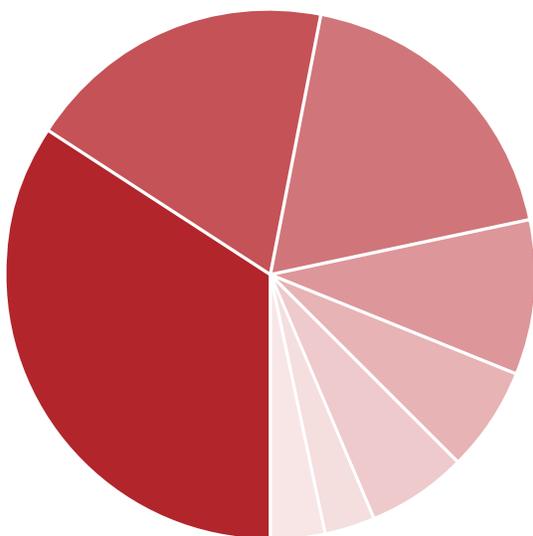
"I love it! I have learned so much from volunteering in the garden. It is truly a great program. I would love to see more school resources going into it."

Parent Volunteer at Loring

"Gardening at school brings students so much joy! Planting, watering, & harvesting are forms of learning & play that enrich our students' experience at school. The garden space is a highlighted destination at recess!"

School staff at Jefferson





- ★ Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- ★ Paid non-MPS support organization staff
- ★ School teacher(s)
- ★ Other volunteer(s)
- ★ Student(s)
- ★ Master gardener(s)
- ★ Paid Garden Coordinator (school staff)
- ★ Community Ed

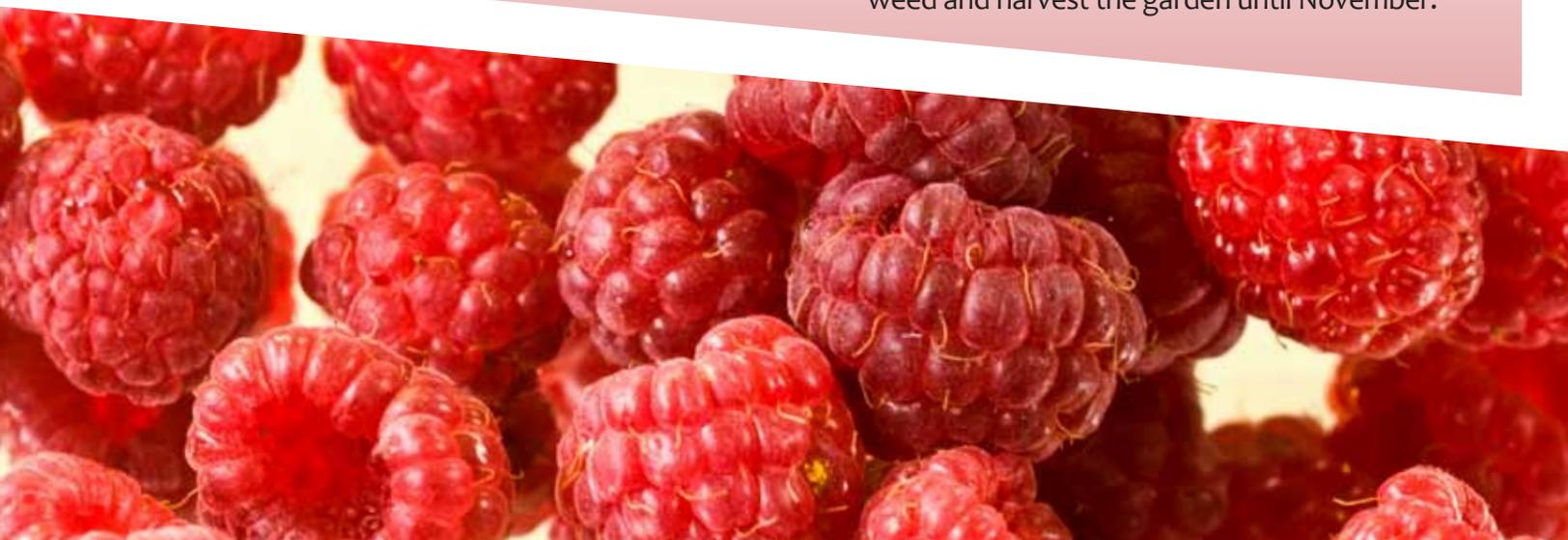
WHO LEADS GARDEN EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL PROGRAMMING?

ANTHONY

Small groups of 4 to 8 students use the garden almost daily for an adapted Science class (SPED). Volunteers help tend it during the summer - this might be parents, students, teachers, or community members.

KENWOOD

Weekly in May, June and September, 2-3 classrooms help plant the garden. 30 kids have used paintbrushes to cross-pollinate the apple trees in April over the past two years. At recess time, a few kids get to help plant. 20 families help plant, water, weed and harvest the garden until November.





COMMUNITY PARTNERS & SCHOOL GARDEN SUPPORTERS

Art Your Engine
ArtiCulture
Beez Kneez
Community Ed
Eco Education

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

Gardening Matters

Harvest Moon Edible Landscapes

Jeffers Foundation

Kids Cook Classroom

Local Restaurants/Businesses

Master Gardeners

Metro Blooms

Midwest Food Connection

Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

MN Horticulture Society

MPS Nutrition Services

Project Sweetie Pie

PTA

University of Minnesota

Whole Kids Foundation

Youth Farm

NORTHROP

Midwest Food Connection comes in to teach one-hour lessons in the spring and fall for three weeks with all the classes. After that the students work at planting, harvesting and weeding the garden during the school year. One teacher weeds and harvests the garden during the summer.

NELLIE STONE JOHNSON

Through Youth Farm, 20-30 students visit the garden at recess a few times a week in fall and spring. All of the 3rd grade classes participate in garden programming once a month throughout the whole school year and one 4th grade class participates a few times a month. 10-15 students in 6th grade PE class visit the garden once a week in the fall & spring. Beacons and Youth Farm partner to offer a 3-5th grade cooking and gardening afterschool class once a week all school year.





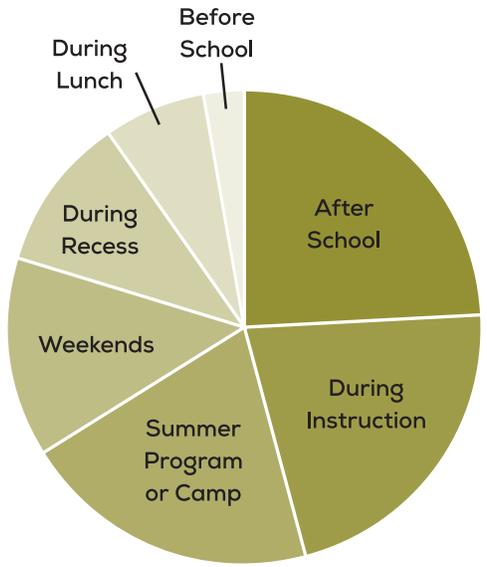
“We have a wonderful garden space but zero budget to hire a person through the growing season to take on this wonderful project! We have the raised beds, plenty of shovels, gloves, even some compost. We just need to hire a person who will bring energy, know-how and enthusiasm to the project.” **School staff at Whittier**

LAKE NOKOMIS - WENONAH

Minneapolis Kids program (*before and after school*) uses the garden with about 65 children. The garden is located near their room and the playground so children see and can visit the garden daily, picking what is ready. They also plan cooking projects from what they are growing. Since Minneapolis Kids does not operate at Wenonah during the summer they invite families to use the garden.

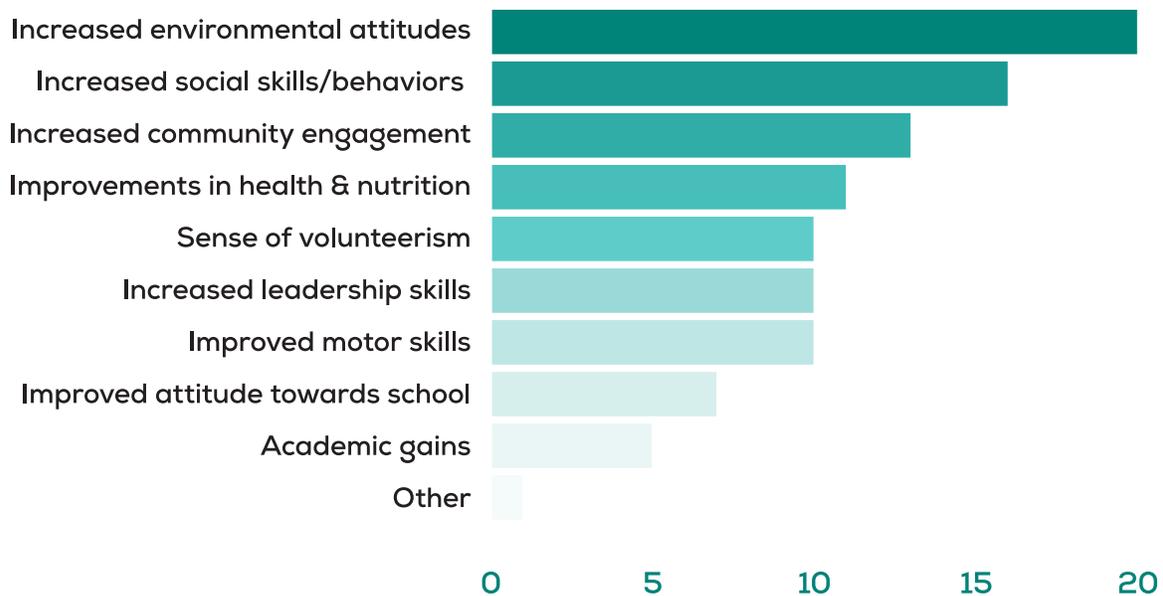


WHEN IS THE SCHOOL GARDEN USED?





WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIVE OBSERVATIONS HAVE YOU MADE IN YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN PARTICIPANTS?



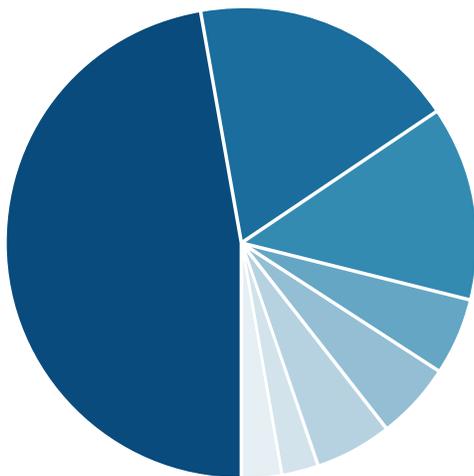
“Hopefully new parents will come forward in the next couple of years as we try to figure out [the garden’s] next iteration and location. Support from the district and community orgs would be greatly appreciated as we plan. This parent volunteer is getting burned out and we could use some help gathering some new steam to support a new garden.”

Parent Volunteer at Seward





WHO LEADS GARDEN EDUCATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?



- ★ School teacher(s)
- ★ Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- ★ Paid non-MPS support organization staff
- ★ Master gardener(s)
- ★ Student(s)
- ★ Other volunteer(s)
- ★ Administrator(s)
- ★ Community Ed

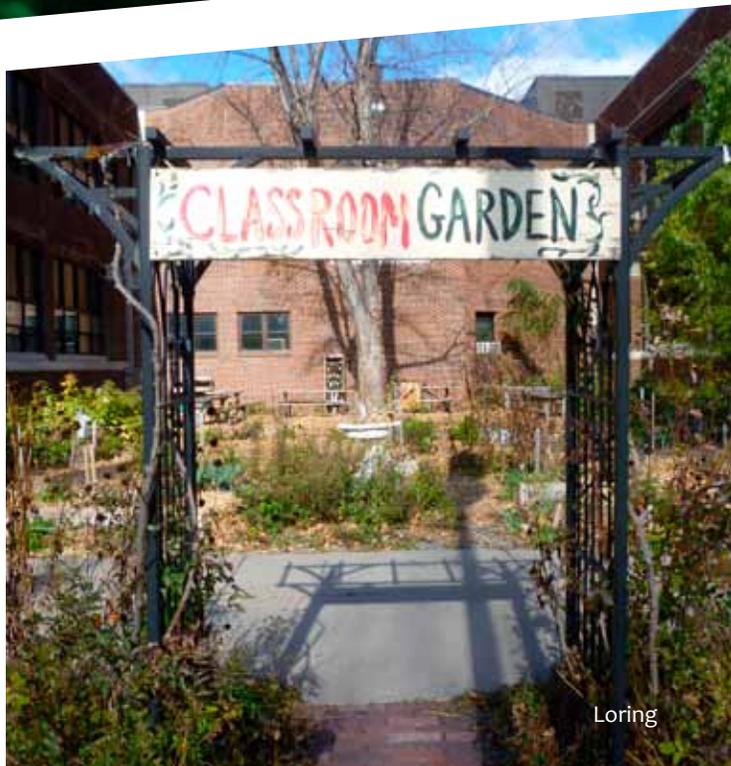
IN WHAT CURRICULAR AREAS IS THE SCHOOL GARDEN USED?



TOP CHALLENGES & REASONS WHY SCHOOLS DON'T HAVE GARDENS

- Lack of funding
- Lack of staffing
- Time constraints





Loring



Dowling

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Thank you.





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Lyndale School Farm

YOUTH FARM

WHERE
LEADERSHIP
GROWS