

Fairchild's Connect to Protect Network



We've gathered advice from some Connect to Protect Network teachers whom we've deemed School Garden Warriors. Some have seen their hard work and efforts vanish before their eyes for various reasons, while others have beat the odds and continued to expand their school garden over time. Their collective advice is that **money talks**: grants of any size and kind are a huge help not only to the garden's needs, but also to enable staff and administrators to see the garden in a positive light, rather than as a burden or a nuisance. Here are some of our school garden warriors' tips and strategies for securing grants.

- Aim for grants that are **appropriate for your purpose**. General or all-purpose grants are less likely to yield results.
- In grant applications, **highlight what makes your school/garden/project special**. Be as specific with details as you can, and identify special circumstances that affect or influence the garden or its goals.
- Include a **detailed budget** with itemized costs in a spreadsheet. Having an organized budget in this way shows grantors **that your project is well-planned**, and that their assistance would be used wisely and effectively.
- If your school is Title I or otherwise identified as **servicing a lower socioeconomic or underserved population**, be certain to highlight these circumstances in your application.

School Garden Grant opportunities

Annie's Foods: Grants for Gardens www.annies.com/giving-back/grants-for-gardens

Donors Choose: donorschoose.org is a crowdfunding site. Andrew Kearns, a teacher at Jose Marti MAST 6-12 Academy, recommends posting your garden grant need on this site in early September when Chevron's "Fuel Your School" program is active. Oftentimes, projects with just a few small donations have their funding completely covered by Chevron! Projects on DonorsChoose under \$1000 have a much greater chance of being fully funded, so it is better to aim for many small donations rather than one or a few large ones.

Dade Reading Council: www.dadereading.org. This council provides scholarships and grants for books. Nancy Sale, an educator at Lillie C. Evans K-8 Center, recommends applying for gardening books through this organization.

The Education Fund: www.educationfund.org. This is a great source of grants for educators.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom (FAITC): apply through faitc.org.

Florida Wildflower Foundation: flawildflowers.org. They have a Seedlings for Schools grant, which sends wildflower seedlings to schools! Also see their Viva Florida demonstration garden grants (up to \$3000).

Florida Farm Bureau: www.floridafarmbureau.org. The "Voice of Agriculture" provides a wide variety of scholarships and grants.

Florida Association of Science Teachers: This is a non-profit professional organization. Apply through fastscience.wildapricot.org.

LEEF League of Environmental Educators in Florida: professional organization for the advancement of environmental education in Florida. Apply through leef-florida.org.

Nature Works Everywhere, presented by The Nature Conservancy www.natureworkseverywhere.org/grants/

Whole Kids Foundation, from Whole Foods Market www.wholekidsfoundation.org/index.php/schools/school-garden-grant-program

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