Overview of The Kitchen Community Services:

TKC provides a comprehensive array of services and resources to every school with a Learning Garden. Our goal is to build capacity within the Garden Team so that they can effectively integrate the garden into the school culture. Services and resources are delivered to schools by a TKC Garden Educator or via tkc.org.

Each school is assigned a Garden Educator who works with your school throughout the school year and summer to ensure that:

• Your school is successful growing fresh produce in your garden and provides it to your school community.
• Your school continues to increase Garden Team capacity to manage your garden.
• Your school engages students through garden-based educational resources to the greatest extent possible.
• Your school invites and encourages community engagement in the Learning Garden.
• Your school is informed about TKC workshops and programmatic opportunities.

How Garden Educators and schools communicate and plan together:

• Garden Educators are available by email, phone, and for in-person meetings. See contact info above.
• Garden Educators pursue school engagement through year-round communication with Garden Teams and school administrators.
• Each school provides, maintains, and engages a Garden Team of at least 4 participants.
• Garden Teams have a Garden Team Lead who serves as the primary point of contact for the Garden Educator.
• Schools build out additional garden-related activities and responsibilities as they see fit.

Services that Garden Educators deliver to every school every year:

• All school garden resources (gardening guides, school-wide communication templates, lessons, activities, and curricula) are available online at www.thekitchencommunity.org.
• An Annual Garden Plan and seasonal distribution of the seeds and seedlings that your school will need to support your Annual Garden Plan.
• Invitation to regionally specific events and happenings, which are also found on our regional pages through www.thekitchencommunity.org/where-were-growing/.
• Four annual workshops for Garden Teams and teachers that support the growth of gardening and outdoor classroom management skills. Workshops are offered seasonally and feature harvesting and food prep activities. They are designed to help teachers grow gardens successfully and feel comfortable bringing students out to the garden.
THE KITCHEN COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Services that may be offered by your Garden Educator:
*Note: These services are provided on an as needed basis.*

- School-wide staff introduction to the Learning Garden.
- Administrative planning and support meeting.
- Garden Team planning meeting.
- Garden skills meeting (on-site garden skills training).
- Assistance with planting days.
- Assistance with harvest days.
- Lessons and activities designed for the garden and classroom.
- Teacher Trainings for TKC’s sponsored curriculum offerings: Garden Bites (K-8) and Real Food Lab (9-12).

School Responsibilities to support your Learning Garden

Once a school has a Learning Garden, the core responsibilities fall into two categories:
1. **garden care & upkeep** includes growing an edible garden, as well as keeping the space clean, safe, accessible, and ready for classroom visits.
   a. Our Annual Garden Plan, supporting documents, and workshops will make each growing season simple and successful. Schools take on the responsibilities of planting, growing, watering, harvesting, and eating from the garden.
   b. Be sure to keep your ground cover, beds, and surrounding space free of weeds and vandalism, and generally looking clean and open for classroom or unguided garden interactions.
2. **student & community engagement** includes tasks related to the following: schedule coordination for classrooms or parents, watering and harvesting, lesson distribution to teachers, coordinating who eats the produce and how it’s eaten (e.g. salad party or in-class recipes).
   a. TKC has an array of outreach materials in both English and Spanish to help promote engagement of families, students, and staff with the Learning Garden.
   b. TKC offers two curriculum as well as classroom lessons and activities customized for grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, & 9-12) to promote experiential and problem-based learning.
   c. TKC offers simple, no-cook recipes and tasting activities that make eating from the garden accessible and delicious. We will work together to assure you have the resources and direction you need to coordinate harvesting and eating from your Learning Garden.
Materials to be replenished annually

There are some basic materials that will be needed on an annual basis. These materials are seeds, seedlings, and compost (and occasionally soil). TKC supplies your school with all of the seeds and seedlings your garden will need, for every season of every year. We will work hard to source donations for compost and will make those donations available to schools when possible. Schools are encouraged to plan and budget monies to purchase enough compost for their garden each year. The annual compost needs for a Learning Garden are typically around $100 or less and can be purchased through local gardening stores. Ask your Garden Educator where you can purchase compost, and how to incorporate it into your garden soil each year!

Optional purchases for your garden

Learning Gardens are installed at or near a water source and come with a storage box that includes tools for watering, gardening, and harvesting. Schools are welcome to purchase items for their garden to expand on our basic package. Consult your Garden Educator about purchasing the following list of items for your garden:

- A water timer for summer watering.
- Mulch for your summer garden.
- Trellising for tomatoes, cucumbers, or squash.
- A foldout table, or picnic table with a shade umbrella for making meals in the garden.
- Garden signs or other art projects to make the space even more inviting and educational.

Garden Educators are happy to share ideas and examples of art projects and signage that other schools have created for their Learning Gardens.