



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

**ALLISON O. MONBLEAU
DIRECTOR**

**STEVEN G. BONINO
CHIEF OF SUPPORT OPERATIONS**

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT
3661 INTERSTATE PARK NORTH, SUITE 100
RIVIERA BEACH, FL 33404

PHONE: 561-383-2000 / FAX: 561-383-2043

WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/SFS

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Contacts:

Erica Whitfield, PX 52039

erica.whitfield@palmbeachschools.org

Paula Triana, PX 52026

paula.triana@palmbeachschools.org

Action By: September 19, 2014
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TO: All Principals, Assistant Principals, School Food Service Managers and Area Superintendents

FROM: Michael J. Burke, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: SCHOOL GARDEN DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

School gardens have been known to significantly increase science achievement scores, improve nutrition knowledge, increase interest in eating fruits and vegetables, foster environmental stewardship, and have a positive impact on the school community and student academic performance.

The School Food Service Department has partnered with the Environmental and Conservation Services Department to develop a new School Garden Development Guide. It is our hope that this guide will assist you with planning, building, and maintaining a wide variety of gardens at your schools.

The guide is located on the School Food Service Department website at <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/sfs/downloads.asp>. Included in the guide are lists of recommended and prohibited plants, facility requirements, maintenance procedures, safety considerations, and resources for assistance. If you would like hard copies of this booklet, please request one from the School Food Service Department.

If you have a garden at your school, or are interested in developing one, please provide the name of your garden coordinator to Erica Whitfield, Wellness Coordinator at erica.whitfield@palmbeachschools.org. This will allow the School Food Service Department to support you with additional resources as they become available and to partner with you in utilizing the cafeteria as a "learning library" where fresh fruits and vegetables may be sampled and lessons taught in the classroom can be reinforced.

The School Food Service and the Environmental and Conservation Services Departments would like to thank you in advance for your interest in creating a garden at your school center.

If you have any questions, please call the contact persons listed above.

EWG/SGB/AM/PS/PT/EZW:jg

Approved: _____

E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent