



# School Learning Garden Initiative

## Spring 2021

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**WE BELIEVE...**  
*all children deserve to feel a sense of belonging to the land, that which sustains all living things, thrives in diversity and grows the food we eat to nourish our bodies.*

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### Root2RISE as a School Garden Support Organization

School gardens have a long history of providing children with meaningful, 'real-world', experiential learning. Unfortunately, many of these programs lack sufficient funds, volunteers, and accessibility for all students. Our root2RISE Project is dedicated to addressing these barriers by helping West Hartford school garden coordinators create an inclusive, sustainable program that continues to thrive even after families move on.

### What will this look like at your school?

#### Level 1

Do you have a strong school garden program but could use a little help with supplies? R2R can help fill in the gaps and coordinate Spring and Fall Farmer's Markets.

#### Level 2

Your school garden program may simply need a reset. We can help! This year we anticipate having the capacity to:

- Design and build raised beds
- Provide schools with a starter kit of seeds and supplies
- Develop strategies and ideas to get families engaged and involved

#### Level 3

Are you looking for more? A multicultural, inclusive, and empowering school learning garden program can deepen your students' connection to themselves and each other.

We will:

- Promote multi-cultural and cross-cultural understanding through language, food and farming traditions
- Build an intentionally diverse team represented by families, faculty and volunteers
- Pilot a 6/7-week program, 45 min, 1x per week, 1 grade level, preferably Gr. 1-3. Detailed lesson plans that connect to NGSS will be provided after needs are determined.

Students become scientists, artists, journalists and explorers engaged in hands-on, place-based discovery of the diversity of the habitats in which we all live as well as the complete history of the land.

