



School Grounds and Gardens Classroom Supplement

As you work towards greening your school by assessing the grounds, you can use this classroom supplement to help you fill out your report card. This document can also guide your students in the certification process by providing opportunities for in-class activities, discussion, and data collection. This supplement is a resource for you and is **NOT** a required part of the program; however, in some cases data from the audits you conduct will be used in your report card.

Schools Grounds Audit

This audit will give you the opportunity to make observations and give a score to your school grounds as they are today. It is important that students make observations on campus in order to complete this audit, and you may want to engage the grounds and/or custodial staff to help you. After you complete your Lasting Change, you'll re-audit your grounds to verify your impact.

Read the statements and complete the tables below. Your goal is not to achieve a certain score, but to improve your score over time through making your Lasting Change.

Observation	Yes	Needs Improvement	No	Notes
We have edible food gardens that are used by students.				
We have native plant and/or specialty gardens that students use.				
We have a compost pile and/or worm bin that students maintain.				
At least one class per year keeps a log of the wildlife species regularly seen on campus.				



<p>We are attracting wildlife by having at least two of the following: bird feeders, bird or bat houses, water features (such as a bird bath), habitat garden.</p>				
<p>Students help remove invasive plants or weeds on campus.</p>				
<p>At least one class per year helps enhance wildlife by planting diverse plants on campus.</p>				
<p>Our school has equipment for outdoor learning.</p>				
<p>At least one class/year uses the school grounds for outdoor learning activities.</p>				
<p>If we irrigate planting beds, the irrigation system is on timers.</p>				
<p>We do NOT water lawns in summer when school is not in session.</p>				
<p>We have rainwater collection such as cisterns or rain barrels to irrigate planting beds.</p>				



We have a rain garden.				
We have a garden teacher/coordinator for our school or school district.				
Our school or district has a policy to leave dead standing trees or fallen logs (as long as they are safe) to attract wildlife.				
Our school or school district has a policy for Integrated Pest Management.				
Our school/ district has a policy that limits or regulates the use of chemicals on school grounds.				
When grass is cut, the clippings are left on the lawn to provide nutrients and reduce waste.				
Leaves are either left in place or used for mulch on planting beds to reduce waste.				
Planting beds have wood chip or leaf mulch on them to reduce weeds and retain moisture.				
Our school or school district has adopted a policy that new plantings will be native plants and/or drought tolerant.				



Our school has updated, innovative and safe play equipment.				
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Remember these results should be transferred over to your report card as part of your school grounds audit both for your assessment and verification steps.

Total of Yes responses: _____ (Your Score!)

Total of Needs Improvement responses: _____

Total of No responses: _____

Reflection Questions

A. What are some positive things you discovered about your school grounds through completing the audit?

B. What are some changes that could be made to improve your school grounds?