



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Public Information Officers
Food Service Directors

FROM: Donna Davis
Director, Office of Health and Nutrition

DATE: October 10, 2023

RE: School Garden and Education Assistance Program

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce the 2023-24 School Garden and Education Assistance Program. The program will be administered by Clemson Extension's School Gardening for SC Educators. School Gardening for SC Educators is a program offered and facilitated by the Clemson University Extension. By sponsoring the School Gardening for SC Educators program, the SCDE is supporting the capacity of schools and school districts in South Carolina to implement and expand agriculture and nutrition education through school gardening.

Request for Proposals for the School Garden and Education Assistance Program are now available online. The awards will be distributed on a competitive basis and the deadline to apply is December 8, 2023, at 5:00 pm EST. Each awarded school will receive an all-inclusive school garden kit to be delivered to the school for the purpose of implementing hands-on nutrition and agriculture education. Each awarded school will also receive comprehensive training, as well as *The Garden Stem: Curriculum for your Garden Classroom* which contains lesson plans customized to South Carolina state teaching standards.

Visit <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/health-and-nutrition/> for updated information and instructions on how to apply. For more information about this assistance program, contact Ben Sease at 803-734-8045 or schoolgardens@ed.sc.gov.