ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL GARDEN LEADERSHIP TEAM

Top 7 predictors of a successful school garden in order of importance:

1. Admin Support
2. Student Usage
3. Garden Teacher Training
4. Available Curriculum
5. Garden Committee
6. Adequate Funding
7. Community Partner Usage

Potential topics for the discussion in the meetings include:

- Goals for the garden and garden usage (revisit old goals and set new ones)
- Challenges that need to be addressed
- Funding
- Maintenance
- Teacher training (i.e., how to help teachers feel comfortable using the garden)
- Community involvement
- Safety
- Use of harvest

Develop an agenda that allows the team to revisit goals and challenges, and also leave time to discuss new issues.

Decide on a regular meeting schedule (e.g. every third Tuesday of the month)
Pick meeting days/times well in advance.

Set a clear understanding among the school community that committee members, themselves, are not responsible for garden maintenance, but they are responsible for deciding how the garden will be maintained.

Create individual roles for the team so that responsibilities are divided and members feel valuable.

Form your committee! The ideal group has representation from:

- teachers from multiple grade levels
- administration
- parents

Anyone who is passionate about gardening and outdoor teaching is a plus!

Seek guidance from an outside source: EdEN Lab can help with this! Among other groups who specialize in school gardens.
Contact edenut@utexas.edu to take your team to the next level.