



## **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

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

**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.***

**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](mailto:edenut@utexas.edu) to take your team to the next level.**