

CDFA Farm to School Incubator Grant- Riverview Garden Program Overview

MDUSD will utilize the CDFA Farm to School Incubator Grant to expand its multi-pronged commitment to long-term student health and wellness by offering nutrition, garden and cooking education in a novel field trip experience for elementary students while also increasing local procurement of “Center of the Plate” beef and fish for all TK-12 students.

MDUSD will use CDFA funds to improve the existing 2.25 acre school garden at Riverview MS so that it can serve as an ultra-local farm destination for elementary field trips. Grant funds will support (1) capital improvements to the existing garden infrastructure to promote educational goals, and (2) creating and implementing standards-based lessons that incorporate healthy eating and wellness as well as a novel, culturally relevant educational component featuring Black, Latinx, and other groups that are relatable for MDUSD’s population and that put into practice the MDUSD Board Policy on Equity. MDUSD’s project will also establish community “Plant Exchanges” in low-income neighborhoods to increase families’ food security and knowledge of healthy eating and cooking.

On procurement, MDUSD will use CDFA grant funds to pilot the procurement of local ground beef from Mindful Meats in Sonoma and/or Niman Ranch in Bolinas, to use for taco meat and meatballs, and locally-caught, fresh fish (red snapper, black cod, and/or lingcod) from the San Francisco Wharf to use for the District’s popular fish tacos. The local fish procurement is especially culturally relevant for our Latinx and Filipino students during Lent, when many of these students (about 48% of enrolled students) abstain from eating meat.