

California Department of Food and Agriculture Education and Procurement Grant

Summary:

The 2022 California Department of Food and Agriculture Education and Procurement Grant is a grant for \$309, 939 over a 24 month period from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2024. Grant funds will be used to expand MDUSD's multifaceted garden-based science and nutrition education program for the highest need students through culturally relevant field trips, adding ultra-local produce production and procurement to inspire student's lifelong love of fresh, healthful foods and create sustainable income for ongoing FTS programming. Specifically, funds will be used to: Continue culturally relevant garden and nutrition education field trips to the Riverview MS garden, prioritizing Title 1 elementary students; Overhaul the >20 year old failing system at the Riverview MS Garden to sustain investment of new perennials, long term health of the 2 acre garden space, and allow for more row planting for increased produce production; hire a new MDUSD farmer/farm educator to dramatically boost food production in 2-3 large school gardens and provide more produce for field trips, for CARES ASP cooking and nutrition lessons, for school salad bars, and for community distribution at farm stands and plant exchanges; Integrate production efforts with garden and nutrition education, especially at the middle and high school levels; Deepen relationships with 3 ultra-local farms by procuring fruits and vegetables for school salad bars; Hire a new Events Coordinator to build capacity for the relationship building and fundraising needed for long term FTS program sustainability. Partial funding for the Growing Healthy Kids Project Director is also included. The grant will continue and expand the district's efforts to engage students in hang-on learning about NGSS, health and wellness.

Schools Impacted by field trips/Riverview Garden renovations:

- All elementary schools, Title 1 schools have priority
- Riverview MS

Schools increasing food production:

- Riverview MS
- Rio Vista EI
- possibly Holbrook EI

Schools benefiting from local procurement and Events Coordinator to sustain MDUSD FTS activities:

- All MDUSD schools