

## About Ground Education...

At Ground Education, our mission is to partner with Long Beach public schools to provide year-round garden, health and environmental awareness experiences for every student during the school day. We value directly engaging youth in order to:

- Grow the capacity for wonder
- Cultivate the space to think, explore and connect
- Nurture robust decision-making

...all in the context of the natural world.

We teach our monthly lessons in the safe and nurturing green spaces that we maintain at each partner school site. These gardens offer students an important respite from their asphalt-centered environment and a safe place to explore the outdoors. Our ultimate vision is a thriving learning garden with a robust curriculum taught by a dedicated Ground Education educator at every elementary and K-8 school in Long Beach.

We developed and refined our comprehensive Transitional Kindergarten (TK)-8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum over 10 years of working in our first school with active involvement by some of Long Beach's finest teachers and staff. Our lessons encourage students of all ages to dig in the dirt, make meaningful connections with nature, explore key classroom concepts outdoors, build awareness of fresh and nutritious foods, and taste their garden-grown efforts. Our goal is to educate the whole child and we passionately believe in the power of nature to teach, inspire, affirm, and connect.

Over the past few years we have grown rapidly, adding several new Long Beach schools each year (as well as two after-school programs). This year we will reach a diverse group of 5,000 students with our monthly lessons and will manage 12 gardens. While

we believe every student should spend time learning outdoors, the focus of our expansion has been schools that serve low income families in underserved Long Beach neighborhoods.

Learn more about us at www.groundeducation.org.

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Ground Education
Youth Garden Education
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