

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Gadsden Independent School District and La Semilla Food Center

This agreement is made to be effective this ____ day of September, 2012 between La Semilla Food Center, a New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation, 101 E Joy Rd, Anthony, NM 88021, and the Gadsden Independent School District, 4950 McNutt Road, Sunland Park, NM 88063.

School gardens, a major component of La Semilla’s Farm to School programming, serve as outdoor classrooms, presenting rich opportunities to engage students, teachers, families, community volunteers, extension agencies, and local farmers through hands-on learning. School gardens promote student well-being, help improve academic achievement through experiential learning, and serve to teach children and youth about the links between food, health, the environment, and local economies.

GISD agrees to the following:

1. To provide space for developing school gardens at participating schools.
2. To provide water for school garden projects at participating schools.
3. To provide space for holding after school programming.

La Semilla agrees to the following:

1. To provide Farm to School programming at Loma Linda Elementary, Gadsden Elementary, and Gadsden Middle School, during the 2012-2013 school year.
2. To provide a FoodCorps service member at each school site, supervised by La Semilla, with district approved background checks. Service members will work with pre-identified teachers to ensure garden-based activities meet New Mexico education benchmarks and standards.
3. To develop school gardens at participating sites.
4. To provide resources for garden development and programming, including garden infrastructure, tools, seeds, and irrigation supplies, and cooking kits and supplies to be used in nutrition and culinary activities.
5. To facilitate an after school garden and cooking club at each site, and monthly parent/student cooking nights.
6. To promote healthy snacks in schools.
7. To work with GISD food service staff to connect with local farmers for school snacks and meals.

Both organizations agree to the following:

1. Modifications to this document will be made by mutual agreement in writing.

By signing this MOU the two organizations acknowledge they will actively abide by its terms.

For Gadsden Independent School District:

Efren Yturralde, Superintendent
(Name and Title)

(Signature)

For La Semilla Food Center:

(Name and Title)

(Signature)