

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

This agreement is made to be effective this 26th day of January, 2017 between La Semilla Food Center, a New Mexico Nonprofit Corporation, 101 E. Joy Drive, Anthony, NM 88021, and Gadsden Independent School District, 4950 McNutt Road, Sunland Park, NM 88063.

Edible Education empowers students to understand how food is grown, consumed, and impacts our personal, community, and environmental health. School gardens serve as outdoor classrooms, presenting rich opportunities to engage students, teachers, families, community volunteers, and local farmers through hands-on learning experiences. 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. The present memorandum of understanding applies to Edible Education programming provided by La Semilla Food Center at Loma Linda Elementary, Gadsden Elementary, Berino Elementary, Sunrise Elementary, La Union Elementary, North Valley Elementary, Vado Elementary, and Gadsden Middle School.

Gadsden Independent School District agrees to the following:

1. To support Edible Education programming in district schools.
2. To provide space for holding 3-4 Saturday professional development workshops for participating teachers.
3. To provide space, site preparation, water, and timely facilities assistance as needed for school garden development at participating schools.
4. To not use any chemicals, including herbicides or pesticides, in or near school garden sites.

La Semilla Food Center agrees to the following:

1. To provide professional development training for teams of 4-6 teachers per participating school committed to developing Edible Education programs.
2. To provide teachers with gardening and classroom cooking resources and curriculum materials that meet New Mexico education benchmarks and standards.
3. To provide up to three years of structured technical assistance and support that may include garden infrastructure and tools, cooking kits and materials, curriculum resources, and healthy school environment toolkits at each participating school.
4. Edible Education staff are supervised by La Semilla, and will undergo district approved background checks in accordance with NMSA section 22-10a5, NMSA 1978.

Both organizations agree to the following:

1. To promote healthy school environments.
2. Any 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:

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(Name, Title)

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(Signature)

For La Semilla Food Center:

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(Name, Title)

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(Signature)