

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2020- 21 SCHOOL YEAR



Edible Schoolyard NYC's mission is to support edible education for every child in New York City.

At the end of the 2020-21 school year, we at Edible Schoolyard NYC are so proud of the work of our students, staff, and organization. This year was full of challenges and uncharted territory due to the impact of COVID-19. While difficult, this year was also full of **innovation, creativity, and tenacity** on the part of our students, school communities, and staff, leading to some major successes.

"You know what I want to be when I grow up? A gardener!"

-Student at P.S./M.S. 7 in East Harlem

We entered the school year with the following organizational priorities:

- ★ To be **in-person and on-site** as much as possible in order to support our students, school communities, and garden spaces
- ★ To **increase food access**, pairing food distributions with food and garden education
- ★ To be a **consistent and responsive partner** to our schools and support their emerging needs
- ★ To renew our commitment to **diversity, equity, and inclusion** (DEI)

HYBRID LEARNING

This year, we implemented both in-person and remote classes, extracurriculars, and family programs, prioritizing in-person learning whenever possible.

1,745 total lessons taught in 2020-21

96% of students tried the tastings in lessons

744 garden kits distributed to students for more engaging remote learning

106 extracurriculars and family programs led

"Each time we get a bag, we are so excited to see what is in it and guess what we are cooking!"

-Parent at Brighter Choice Community School in Bedford-Stuyvesant

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We increased food access support in our programs this year, distributing recipe kits, hot meals, healthy snacks, and other fresh produce giveaways. This initiative was urged on by increased food insecurity during the pandemic.

6,235 total food distributions in 2020-21, an increase of 34% from last year

1,684 pounds of produce harvested in our gardens and distributed to the community

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We led 19 virtual professional development sessions, training educators how to implement edible education in their own classrooms.

100% of participants surveyed learned a new skill or idea they will use in their own classrooms

251 educators attended our workshops, who in turn reached 14,268 students

129 organizations or schools represented by educators in our PD workshops

ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Beyond the success of our programs in this extraordinary year, ESYNYC made significant progress on several crucial organization-wide priorities.

- ★ **Created and implemented staff and Board DEI action plans**, including goals such as increasing community feedback, defining a more inclusive fundraising strategy, and increasing diverse representation on the Board
- ★ **Launched an internal DEI committee**, as well as several cross-functional working committees to address pay equity, external communications, and internal transparency
- ★ **Increased our advocacy capacity**, serving as active members of food education coalitions, supporting several bills and calls to action around increased government support for student food security, and giving testimony to New York City Council on the importance of school gardens and food access support in schools
- ★ **Stabilized our financial position** by strong financial management and building fundraising momentum

"This workshop was FANTASTIC - my team went into the garden today full of ideas. Thank you!"

-Professional Development participant

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR

In summer 2021, **ESYNYC will welcome a new Executive Director**, with a transition period supported by outgoing Executive Director Kate Brashares, who served in her role for nine years.

A top priority for the new Executive Director will be to lead the **development and implementation of a new strategic plan** that will provide direction for our work into the next three to five years. This plan will be grounded in equity, inclusive in process, and an advancement of our DEI action plan. It will address questions of how to become a more anti-racist organization, how to grow and shift our work to support edible education across the city while also building capacity for our current programs, and how to raise funds in an inclusive and equitable way while supporting programmatic growth.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

We are so grateful to our students, school communities, staff, Board of Directors, and partners for your support this year. We look forward to next school year and a new chapter in our organization's life, as we continue to work towards a more just and sustainable food system for all.

Thank you for making this work possible!





AN EDIBLE EDUCATION IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST FOOD.

"...[I]t is more important than ever to have students being creative and healthy at home."

-Network school principal

Our cooking and gardening programs nurture healthy school communities where students can thrive socially, emotionally, academically, and physically.

Our programs include in-school kitchen and garden lessons, extra-curriculars, family and community events, food distribution, and professional development workshops.

We believe this work prepares students to lead the way to a **more just and sustainable future for all.**

STUDENTS...



Engage in and enjoy our programming



Practice social-emotional learning



Develop a commitment to food and environmental justice



Make connections between food education and core academics



Grow, cook, and enjoying eating plant-based foods



We reach all **2,895 students** enrolled at our seven direct service public elementary and middle schools in the South Bronx, Central and South Brooklyn, and East Harlem.



Students participated in **1,413 edible education lessons** last school year.



97% of our students tried the food in ESYNYC lessons.**

"COOKING MAKES MY HEART HAPPY, ME AND MY HEART HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS CLASS ALL WEEK."

-P.S. 109 FOURTH GRADER



FAMILIES...



Engage with our programs and the school community



Have increased access to plant based food



700 families attended an ESYNYC event at P.S. 216 in 2019.



We will distribute over **2,000 hot meals**, produce bags, and meal kits in 2020-21.

SCHOOLS...



Are flourishing healthy communities



Our schools scored in the top category **"Flourishing"** on the Healthy Schools Progress Report, which is higher than national and NYC averages.*



"(ESYNYC) SUPPORT(S) OUR SCHOOL VISION OF HAVING A HEALTHY FOOD CULTURE AND PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT THOSE GOALS AND VISION."

-P.S. 311 SCHOOL STAFF



EDUCATORS...



Learn to implement kitchen and garden lessons in their own programs



In one year, we trained **473 educators** in our professional development programs, who in turn have reached over **466,000 students**.**



96% said they had used something they learned in our workshop in their own food education programming 4-12 months later.**



100% of participants reported learning something that they would use in their own food education programs.*

"WE NEED TO START A HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION REVOLUTION. ESPECIALLY NOW, THIS IS THE TIME."

-PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPANT

For more information on our programs and impact, visit edibleschoolyardnyc.org/impact.

*data are from 2018-19 school year, which was the most recent full in-person school year

**data are from the 2019-20 school year

Quotes are from 2018-2020