

# MAKING EDIBLE EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE

September 2022 - June 2023



## REFLECTING ON THIS YEAR'S GROWTH

It's an exciting time for Food Education in New York City, with a stronger focus placed on food in our school system than we have seen in recent years. It's a moment in time that we have been working towards at Edible Schoolyard NYC for 13 years.

*Every student in New York City deserves to experience the joys of learning in a kitchen and garden; we continue to take steps to bring that vision to reality.*

Informed and inspired by our years of learning and innovation, we have re-doubled our commitment to promote access to Edible Education for all NYC students by:

- Developing and beginning the implementation of a new strategic plan towards that goal
- Teaching more students, conducting more classes, and advising more schools on integrating Edible Education than the year before
- Adapting our model to be implemented across the wide variety of school settings through a new Partner Schools program.
- Partnering with the NYC Department of Education to support the City's new commitment to prioritize and expand access to food and nutrition education for all students across NYC beginning this fall

With so much to be proud of this year, there is even more to be energized by in the year to come! Onward into another harvest, school year, and chance to bring Edible Education to our city's students.

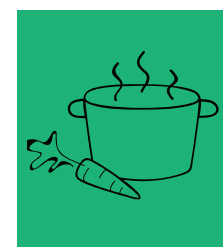


**Shanon Morris, MS, RD, CDN**  
Executive Director



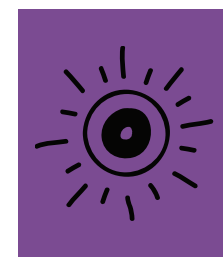
## OUR IMPACT

**3,983**  
STUDENTS  
REACHED



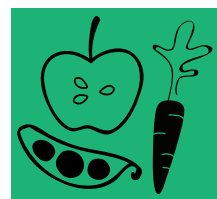
**2,206**  
EDIBLE  
EDUCATION  
lessons taught across  
**16 SCHOOLS**

**559**  
EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES  
coordinated



**-95-**  
EDUCATORS  
participated in  
**6 PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
workshops**

**1,184**  
POUNDS OF  
PRODUCE  
harvested



**-73-**  
VOLUNTEERS  
engaged over  
**1,294 HOURS**

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## EXPANDING OUR REACH

We expanded our reach through a new Partner Schools model that provided school-based services and technical assistance to eight (8) additional sites, including an expansion into Queens! New partnerships include direct instruction provided by our Mobile Educator, and consultation on curriculum, garden design, community engagement, and program implementation.

We also continued to provide free professional development sessions, with 95 participating educators excited to integrate Edible Education into their own classrooms. Topics included aligning and integrating core academic content with garden programs, social-emotional learning, and student engagement, and featured partnerships with the NYC Department of Education's Office of School Wellness, GrowNYC, and The Edible Schoolyard Project in Berkeley, CA.

These new opportunities, supported by increased staff capacity, allowed us to expand our reach and make Edible Education more accessible and adaptable for a variety of school settings.

## COACHING, CAPACITY BUILDING, & CAPITAL FOR NEW PARTNERS

In the upcoming year, we will support even more schools to implement or expand garden and cooking programming through a new initiative that will provide funding; one year of professional development and technical assistance; and ongoing support for a cohort of 20 Title 1 schools across NYC. Participating schools will receive a series of trainings to help teachers integrate food and nutrition education into their school community, as well as on-site consultations and direct funding support to enable learning in the garden and kitchen. This initiative is made possible by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

*"I like working in the greenhouse . . .  
I want to have a farm when I'm older."*

5th Grader  
P.S./M.S. 007, East Harlem

## COLLABORATING FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPOSTING

This year, we worked with our Bronx-based school partners to implement and sustain the Bronx School Composting initiative. ESYNYC anchored partnership and fostered collaboration between critical community and city agencies and vital school stakeholders. We coordinated the resources, staff training, and student education necessary to successfully implement the program at each school. Further, we incorporated composting lessons into our classes, supported teachers' ability to integrate composting content into their classrooms.

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## CULTIVATING NYC'S FUTURE FOOD ADVOCATES

*"I learned there are a lot of ways to be an activist."*

5th Grader

P.S. 216, Gravesend, Brooklyn

We cultivated the future leaders our food system needs through environmental justice education, and successful integration of composting initiatives

Students learned about historical movements that promoted food justice across the country and the world, including Fannie Lou Hamer's Freedom Farm Cooperative, the Black Panther Party's Free School Breakfast Program, and the Seed Sovereignty Movement in India. Students at our Bronx school sites were also elected to serve as Compost Monitors to help other students sort their food waste in the cafeteria. Our second cohort of student leaders doubled in size to accommodate overwhelming interest in the role.



## ADVOCATING FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE

Throughout the 2022-23 school year, we took steps to weave collaborative visions for urban agriculture, farm to school, and cooking and garden education with partners and policymakers alike. We took active leadership roles in key coalitions to build urgency and support for universal food and nutrition education. We advocated for citywide investment in universal food and nutrition education for our city's public school students by delivering testimony to City Council.

## BRINGING FOOD EDUCATION TO ALL

NYC Mayor Eric Adams, NYC Schools Chancellor David Banks, and NYC food policy and health officials have aligned with the advocacy of our coalitions. Collectively, they agree on the importance and urgency of food education for our city's children, and have officially begun to invest in universal access to food and nutrition education for all students beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

As longstanding providers of Edible Education programming, we are excited to reflect all we've learned from our deep collaboration with school communities about implementing impactful, culturally relevant Edible Education. **We can't wait to share updates on how we serve as implementation partners during this exciting time of expanding accessibility for Edible Education in NYC students.**