

SCHOOL GARDEN FOOD SAFETY RESOURCES



School gardens are increasingly being used as hands-on tools to help students learn many core educational concepts. Not only do school gardens help produce educated students, but they also produce an abundance of fruits and vegetables. The School Garden Food Safety Program was developed to meet the needs of

schools that wanted the produce from its garden to be served in the school's cafeteria.

Effective August 6, 2016, Arizona House Bill 2518 became law as Title 36-136. This basically says that school grown produce that is washed and cut onsite in the school's cafeteria for immediate consumption is an approved source. Any questions regarding this change in law and its impact on the certification process can be directed to the School Garden Program through ADHS - schoolgarden@azdhs.gov.

Microorganisms and pathogens are a natural part of the environment. It is essential to understand how these microorganisms are typically introduced into the gardening environment and the potential means by which they can contaminate fresh produce in order for school gardens to safely provide healthy foods grown by, and for, students. The UA CALS - CE free School Garden Food Safety Online Training program, <http://cals.arizona.edu/agliteracy/school-garden->



food-safety-training, is a way to determine if you have implemented safe practices for your school, community or even your home garden.

Arizona House Bill 2518

http://www.azleg.gov//FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/52leg/2r/laws/0243.htm&Session_ID=115

Title 36-136

<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/36/00136.htm&Title=36&DocType=ARS>

Arizona Department of Health Services School Gardens Program
www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/fses/school-garden/

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension School Garden Food Safety Resources

<http://cals.arizona.edu/agliteracy/programs/school-garden-food-safety>

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