

**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
NATIONAL  
ARBORETUM**

**Educator Coaching Program  
Evaluation Report**

2021-2022 Program Year

# Introduction

## Program Overview

Built upon 20 years of relationships and lessons learned from partnering with DC schools, Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) supports local teachers and schools in growing and maintaining sustainable, integrated school gardens that serve as an outdoor science classroom, a living nutrition lab, and a creative space to get in touch with nature. The overall goals for FONA's School Garden Support programs are to increase student engagement, social-emotional learning, and health for 4,000+ PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students across DC at Title 1 schools through garden-based education.

## Program Components

The School Garden Support Program includes the following components:

- **Summer Institute for Garden-based Teaching**, a week-long intensive professional development training that inspires and connects teachers and school staff to more fully integrate their school garden into daily educational activities. All schools that participate in the Educator Coaching Program must first go through the Summer Institute.
- **Educator Coaching Program**, which provides Title 1 school garden teams flexible, needs-based support to ensure that their gardens are maintained, vibrant, and integrated into the school food and academic systems. FONA offers several key supports to help them achieve their goals, including, but not limited to:
  - **Regular garden team meetings**
  - **Technical Assistance**, including garden redesign, planning, maintenance, materials, partnership development, event support, and more.
  - **Garden Science**, a 4-8 week, theme-based curriculum that can be provided to teachers and/or co-taught by classroom teachers alongside FONA staff
  - **SPROUT Field Trips** to the Washington Youth Garden

## Program Participation

Twelve Title I schools participated in the Educator Coaching Program during the 2021-22 school year:

- Brightwood Educational Campus
- EW Stokes Brookland Campus
- Hendley Elementary School
- EW Stokes East End Campus
- Friendship Armstrong
- Friendship Blow Pierce
- Friendship Southeast
- Friendship Woodridge
- KIPP DC Connect and Spring Academies
- Mary Mcleod Bethune Day School
- Sela
- Turner Elementary School

## Evaluation

In early 2022, Sharp Insight, LLC partnered with FONA on the development of an evaluation plan and a survey tool for the Educator Coaching Program. FONA implemented the plan and the ECP survey, along with their previously developed Summer Institute Survey and Program Tracking Tool during the 2021-22 program year (September 2021 through August 2022 – the first full year of the program). In early 2023, Sharp Insight again partnered with FONA on the data analysis and reporting; the results are shown in the following report.

## Results-at-a-Glance

The following Results-at-a-Glance table outlines the September 2021 through August 2022 evaluation questions of FONA's Educator Coaching Program, followed by their associated performance measures, evaluation methods, and progress toward targets.

Evaluation Question	Performance Measure	Evaluation Method	Progress Toward Target
What are the <b>characteristics</b> of FONA's program participants and partner schools?	10-12 Title 1 schools will participate in the Educator Coaching Program annually	Program Tracking Tool	● <b>12</b> Title 1 schools participated [Target=10-12]
	500+ students participate annually	ECP Participant Survey	● <b>963</b> students participated [Target=500+]
To what extent are students <b>participating</b> in garden-based education, including in the classroom, in their school garden, and/or on field trips?	80% of participating students at Educator Coaching Program schools will receive 10+ hours of garden-based education annually	ECP Participant Survey	○ <b>36%</b> of participating students received 10+ hours of garden-based education [Target=80%]
To what extent are participants (teachers, students, and partners) <b>satisfied</b> with the Educator Coaching Program?	90% of staff participants will report satisfaction with the Educator Coaching Program	ECP Participant Survey	● <b>100%</b> of participants would recommend the program [Target=90%]
To what extent are schools <b>meeting their goals</b> to advance their school gardens and/or improve their garden-based education?	100% of Educator Coaching program schools complete 50% of 2-4 goals annually	Program Tracking Tool	● <b>100%</b> of schools completed 50%+ of goals [Target=100%]
To what extent are schools increasing their <b>commitment</b> to, and <b>use</b> of, their school garden?	School garden teams grow by 50%	Program Tracking Tool	-- <i>[not tracked this year]</i>
	School garden use increases	ECP Participant Survey	● <b>71%</b> of participants reported that their garden is used more this year than last year
To what extent are staff reporting changes in <b>knowledge, skill, and intention</b> to continue garden use as a result of the Educator Coaching Program?	90% of staff report increased knowledge and skill; 100% report intention to continue garden use	ECP Participant Survey	● <b>100%</b> of participants reported increased knowledge [Target=90%]
			○ <b>85%</b> reported new or improved skills [Target=90%]
			● <b>100%</b> reported intention to continue garden use [Target=100%]
● Met   ○ Not Met   -- Not Applicable			

# Program Tracking Tool Results

FONA staff completed the Program Tracking Tool in Google Sheets from September 2021 to August 2022.

## Status of Goals

**100%** of schools met their target for goal completion.

**Of 50 total goals, 45 (90%) were completed; one was put on hold, and four were cancelled.**



## Goal Types

**More than one-quarter (28%) of all goals were related to garden team development and support. Eleven out of 12 (92%) participating schools had at least one goal related to garden team development and support.**

Theme	% of Goals (n=50)	Example Goal & School
Garden team development and support	28%	Increase garden team to 3-5 staff members and build interest in garden-based teaching - <i>Blow Pierce</i>
Structures & procedures	16%	Developing structures and procedures to maintain a productive garden throughout the school year - <i>Armstrong</i>
Increase utilization – teacher support	14%	Increase school staff use of the garden to 2-3 teachers completing at least 1 garden-based lesson - <i>Brightwood</i>
Increase utilization – events and initiatives	12%	Support 2-3 school garden events and initiatives to increase school community use of the garden - <i>Mary McLeod Bethune</i>
Professional development – teachers	12%	Supporting 2-3 teachers in implementing 3+ garden-based lessons - <i>Hedley</i>
Grant application	8%	Support Turner Garden team to prepare and submit Whole Kids Grant for the SY22-23 - <i>Turner</i>
Produce distribution	6%	Support garden team in implementing monthly produce distribution for school community and increase community engagement in garden - <i>Spring</i>
Garden infrastructure	4%	Creating 10-12 new bilingual signs for garden with staff and student collaboration - <i>Sela</i>

## Educator Coaching Program Survey Results

Fifty-six people participated in the Educator Coaching Program during the 2021-22 program year. In the summer of 2022, 21 Educator Coaching Program participants completed a survey via SurveyMonkey, representing a 38% response rate. Eleven out of 12 (92%) participating schools were represented by respondents.

Survey results indicated that FONA exceeded nearly all of the performance measure targets from the evaluation plan.

*“From our clear vision of the use of [school’s] garden and the implementation of the logic model from summer trainings, it was relatively easy to constantly invite more teachers to join with their classrooms under FONA support...THANK YOU!”*

- Survey Respondent

### Garden Use

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Schools are **increasing their use** of their school gardens, according to survey respondents.

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Ten out of twenty-one respondents (48%) reported that their garden is used **weekly**. Fifteen out of twenty-one (71%) noted that their garden is used **more** than last school year. Of those that reported it was used more, 18 out of 19 (95%) noted that it was used more by students; 15 out of 19 (79%) noted it was used more by teachers.

**48%**

of respondents reported  
that their gardens are  
used **weekly**

**71%**

of respondents reported  
that gardens are used  
**more** than last year

## Student Participation

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Educator survey respondents reported delivering **162** lessons to **936** students this year.

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Twenty survey respondents reported that approximately **963** students received garden-based education this school year. Of those, about **342 (36%)** received 10 or more hours of garden-based education during the school year. Survey respondents reported delivering **162** garden-based lessons that were 30 minutes or longer during the school year.

In addition to the numbers reported here, FONA staff led co-teaching series and field trips with 29 educators and 559 students, as well as 28 events serving 1,009 participants.

**963**

Total students served  
by 20 respondents

**342**

Of 963 students  
received 10+ hours of  
garden-based  
education

**162**

Lessons delivered by  
20 respondents

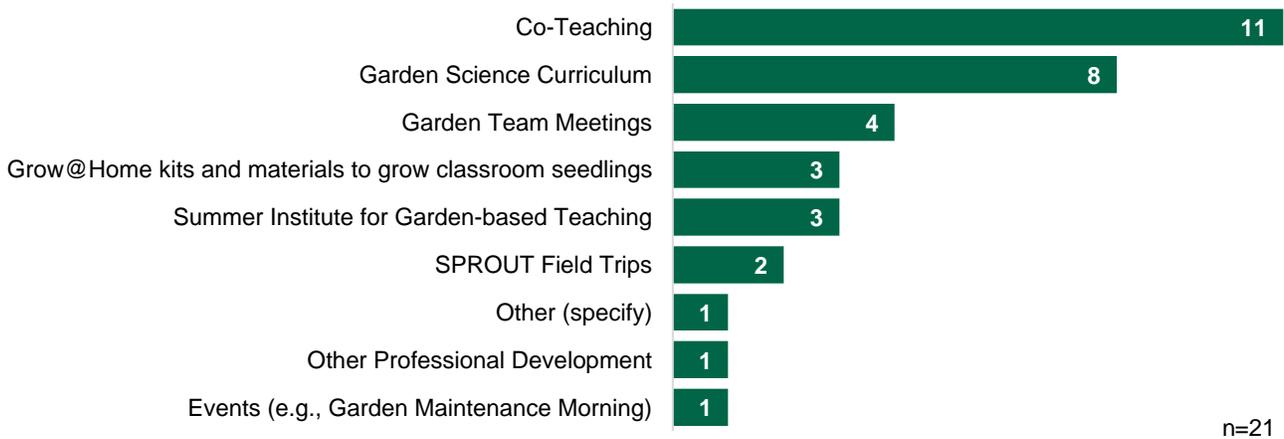
*“The lessons were engaging and offered a literacy component in the form of a read aloud.  
The lessons were always hands on and experiential for students.”*

*- Survey Respondent*

## Program Participation

**Co-teaching and Garden Science** were the program components that survey respondents engaged with most.

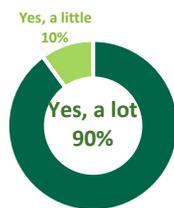
The program components survey respondents reported engaging with most were co-teaching and the Garden Science curriculum. More than half of respondents (11 out of 21, or 52%) reported that they participated in co-teaching; more than one-third (8 out of 21, or 38%) reported that they used the garden science curriculum. While not visualized below, over one-third of respondents (38%) reported that they engaged with two or more program components.



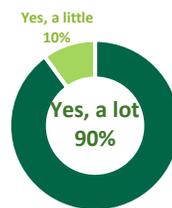
## Satisfaction

**100%** of survey respondents would recommend the program, and **100%** intend to continue using their school garden.

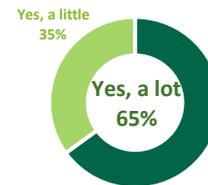
*"I would recommend the Educator Coaching Program to a colleague."*



*"I intend to continue using the garden at my school in the next school year."*



*"I learned new things about school garden education."*



n=20

*"The students were SO engaged in our outdoor learning this year. In particular, students loved engaging in mindful breathing in the garden. It helped students regulate emotions and feel connected to the rest of the school community."*

*-Survey Respondent*

# Summer Institute Survey Results

Thirty-one people participated in the one-week Summer Institute training program in the summer of 2022. All 31 participants completed a Google Forms survey following the training, for a 100% response rate. Overall ratings were high.

## Institute Outcome Attainment

**Self-reported attainment of Institute outcomes was high. Most notably, 19 out of 31 (61%) respondents strongly agree and 11 out of 31 (35) agree that they have a plan to incorporate Outdoor Learning into their schools this year. (n=31)**

Because of the Summer Institute...

