

## Curriculum Review

By Leta Bender

Life Lab, along with Kids Gardening, is responsible for our “go to” book for school garden curriculum for Garden-Based Science and Nutrition activities and lessons, The Growing Classroom, and we have encouraged our elementary schools to purchase the 4th edition which aligned the lessons to NGSS Performance Standards in an appendix at the end of the book. Now, however, the Life Lab team is working to build lessons designed to “engage students in Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Science and Engineering Practices in order to investigate and discover key ideas from grade-level NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas and Crosscutting Concepts”. We have the units for grades K-2; each grade has 8 lessons which you can borrow to share at a school. A free sample lesson for each of the units is downloadable at <https://lifelab.org/ngsscurriculum/>. I would highly recommend these units be purchased by our schools because they are fully aligned to all aspects of NGSS! They can be ordered at the same website. I look forward to seeing the next ones coming from Life Lab for grades 3-5.

And for After School Clubs and multi-grade use of the garden, I recommend the Junior Master Gardener Curriculum <https://imgkids.us/curriculum/>. The downside is that they are not free, but you might use grant money for purchasing them or go through your district.

For free garden curriculum, see our MG School Garden webpage <https://www.mastergardenersd.org/school-gardens-curriculum/>