



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 13, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *aw*

SUBJECT: **2010 Michigan School Garden Survey**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the first ever Michigan School Garden Survey. This survey was designed by researchers at Michigan State University (MSU) and the Michigan Nutrition Network (MNN) to assess the current status of school gardens in Michigan.

Garden-based learning, especially within schools, has gained popularity in recent years. Data suggests that school gardens may impact students' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors with regards to fruit and vegetable consumption. In light of the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity and risk for chronic disease, it is important to note the role that fruit and vegetable consumption may play in preventing this type of disease.

The purpose of this ten question online survey is to determine the number of public schools in Michigan that have school gardens, and how these gardens are being used.

**Eligible Participants**

All school administrators are encouraged to respond to this survey, including those that do not have school gardens. Participants will be entered into a drawing to win one complimentary registration to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) "Smart Students" conference or ten packets of organic salad mix seeds. Two winners will be selected for the conference registration drawing and 100 winners will be selected for the seed drawing.

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Michigan Public School Lead Administrators

Page 2

January 13, 2010

### **Survey Information**

The survey is brief and takes approximately five minutes to complete. To access the document, enter the URL below into your web browser:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229KNGKA23V>

**The survey deadline is Monday, February 15, 2010.**

Questions regarding the content of this memo may be directed to Caroline Martin, Research Coordinator, at [mart1152@msu.edu](mailto:mart1152@msu.edu).

Thank you in advance for your participation! Your leadership impacts the well-being of Michigan's children.

cc: William Mayes, MASA  
David Martell, MSBO  
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Kathy Hayes, MASB