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SHERRI YBARRA
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\$20,381 in Grants to Grow School Gardens Awarded 8 Idaho Schools / 4 Childcare Centers

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(BOISE) – The Idaho State Department of Education is awarding \$20,381 to help 8 schools and 4 childcare centers across Idaho build school gardens, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra announced today. Each school will receive grant funds to build a garden to promote nutrition, science and agricultural education.

“Through these grants, Idaho students will be able to roll up their sleeves and learn valuable, hands-on lessons about nutrition, math, science and many other subject areas,” Superintendent Ybarra said.

With this grant funding, schools will implement a wide range of innovative educational activities, from outdoor classrooms to service-learning projects. Each grant site will also be paired with a Master Gardener from University of Idaho Extension to serve as garden mentors.

The grants are funded through the State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs USDA Team Nutrition grant so nutrition education must be a part of every school garden plan.

The State Department of Education will work with these schools throughout the year to create a best practices guide that other Idaho schools can use in future years if they want to incorporate a successful gardening program into the school curriculum. The following is a list of the 12 sites receiving school garden grants this year:

<u>School / Childcare Center</u>	<u>School District / Location</u>
Joplin Elementary	West Ada School District
Rolling Hills Public Charter	Horseshoe Bend
Barbara Morgan S.T.E.M. Academy	West Ada School District
Palouse Prairie School	Palouse Prairie School District #472
Lincoln Elementary	Twin Falls School District
Spalding S.T.E.M Academy	West Ada School District
Tetonia Elementary School	Teton County School District #401
Cecil D. Andrus Elementary	West Ada School District
Singing Hills Child Care	Rathdrum
The Children’s Place, Inc.	Idaho Falls
Kids Korner Preschool & Daycare, LLC	Idaho Falls
College of Southern Idaho Lab Schools	Twin Falls

Idaho awarded school garden grants to 11 schools in 2008, 15 schools in 2010 and 13 schools in 2012 and these schools have seen great success as a result. For more information, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/schoolgarden/>.

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