

Submitter: Leeann Bennett

On Behalf Of: Garden Program

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

The Garden Program at Newport Middle School is one of the most popular programs that my students in Future Bound participate in. They are genuinely excited about working in the garden, whether that entails planting, propagating, repotting, harvesting, aerating the compost, building garden beds, hauling wood chips and dirt, or weeding. OK, maybe they're not crazy about weeding, but everything else is enjoyed quite a lot. They get time outdoors, hands-on experience in real-world activities, lots of new knowledge about the science of producing food and nutrition, and the opportunity to work together toward a common goal. Perhaps best of all, they help the school kitchen to provide students with fresh fruits and vegetables. These skills and the knowledge gained are all applicable and transferable outside the school setting. Isn't this the exact sort of results we hope to provide students in a public school setting? We need this garden program to continue and flourish.

-Leeann Bennett, Teacher
Future Bound Program