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Grant Language

Project description. Students in [grades] at [school] will run a four-week classroom grow lab with Boston Youth Farm Project. Each class plants kale, arugula and radish microgreens, cares for them daily, measures growth weekly, and harvests and tastes them in week four, followed by a Harvest Night for families.

Need. Massachusetts names school belonging and health and wellness as domains of its MTSS Blueprint, and chronic absence remains a state accountability measure. Hands-on, shared responsibility for a living thing gives every student a daily role in the classroom.

Activities. Four weekly lessons of about 45 minutes from a 48-activity library aligned to MA STE grade 5 standards and the 2023 health framework's nutrition strand; daily plant care; a family Harvest Night with invitations in home languages.

Evaluation. A private five-item Check-In on belonging and connectedness, before planting and before harvest; weekly plant height data; an attendance snapshot comparing the lab weeks with the four weeks before; Harvest Night family sign-ins by home language; and student reflections. Results are reported in a one-page brief and, for multiple schools, a district roll-up.

Edit the bracketed parts. References: Title IV-A (DESE fund code 0309), MA FRESH (DESE fund code 0710), MA MTSS Blueprint.