Minnesota Schoolyard Gardens Coalition
Who Are We?
2014/5 Stewardship Team

- Brian Wheat, Science Instructor, South Education Center, Richfield
- Uli Koester, Executive Director, Midwest Food Connection
- Bonnie Lohman, Garden Specialist, Columbia Heights Public Schools
- Terri Swartout, Education Specialist, MN Dept. of Education
Schoolyard Garden Coalition

- The Mission of the Minnesota Schoolyard Garden Coalition is to provide education, share resources, build capacity, and advance policies for schoolyard gardens throughout Minnesota.
We Believe Schoolyard Gardens...

- Provide a valuable outdoor learning space
- Promote environmental stewardship
- Enhance health and well-being
- Instill life-long healthy eating habits
- Teach kids how to grow their own food
- Connect students to nature
- Nurture leadership and entrepreneurial skills
- Foster community engagement
3 years of growth

- **April 2012** First gathering to support schoolyard gardens, attended by educators and non-profit and state leaders
- **February 2013** 1st Schoolyard Garden Conference at Arboretum
- **May 2013** Meeting to found the coalition: mission, core values, and leadership team
- **April 2014** Kick off to organize committees to work on specific projects
Current Committees/Work Groups

- Curriculum and Training
- Conference Planning
- Funding Hunters
- Resource Hub
Accomplishments 2015

- Surveyed members for most effective schoolyard garden curricula
- Created extensive collection of funding sources
- Partnered in conference planning
- Communicated regularly with 150 members statewide
- Facebook page
- Implemented succession model for coalition leadership
Upcoming Coalition Meeting

- Tuesday, March 10
  3:00-5:00
  Minnesota Department of Education
  Roseville
What Steps Would YOU Be Willing To Take? Join our work!