

Dear Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education members:

The members of the Healthy Food Taskforce wish to express their full support to the Food Literacy Center and their proposal to operate the garden program at Leataata Floyd Elementary School.

Once completed, this 2.5 acre farm be open to students in both Floyd and Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School. Students will be able to grow a variety of healthy food in an effort to increase their understanding of nutrition and agriculture. Amber Stott and the staff of the Food Literacy Center are well suited to lead this charge and provide these students with the best learning experience in this immensely vital educational realm. The Food Literacy Center has been a valuable district partner for several years, providing cooking and nutrition programs at six SCUSD after school programs. They are also partners in the district's recently awarded federal Farm to School grant.

Despite promising trends and new practices concerning nutritional education and the importance of exercise, young people are still dealing with a serious epidemic of obesity, early onset diabetes, and other preventable health issues. Exposing students to better options early and often, at the school site and during the regular teaching hours, greatly increases the chances that they will develop healthy habits while young and become healthier adults.

The Food Literacy Center has a proven track record in our community of bringing successful food literacy education to a low-income student population in Sacramento. Evaluation data from three years of implementation at a similarly enrolled school in South Sacramento yielded the following results:

- 87% of students could provide an example of a healthy vegetable on a campus where year one students reported never having seen broccoli or plums!
- 91% of all students reporting that YES, healthy snacks taste GOOD!
- 80% of students know how to make a healthy snack and read a recipe.
- 87% of students know how to save money while selecting foods that are also good for them.
- 80% of students know how to read a nutrition label.

In summation, please be aware that all of the organizations listed below are very vested in ensuring that the students of the Sacramento City Unified School District have every opportunity to participate in healthy garden and nutritional programs, and that they all fully support the Food Literacy Center and their proposal to manage this new and exciting kitchen, farm and garden site.