Education Access Program for Grades K-12

Through the Education Access Program, Denver Botanic Gardens offers financial assistance to local schools. Each year, this valuable program provides authentic experiences bolstering understanding of plants and nature to children, kindergarten – 12th grade, including schools in underserved communities. In 2018 over 35,000 students came to the Gardens from 376 schools. Many were admitted either at a reduced rate or free of charge. In addition to classes, the Education Access Program also provides support for transportation as needed. The Gardens’ programs outlined below benefit from Education Access funding.

Direct School Support
The Gardens provides activities that supplement schools’ regular academic programming and are planned around Colorado Academic Standards for each grade level. Students experience nature, science and art in ways that are not part of the traditional curriculum. Teachers can sign up for the following programs:

- **Guided Explorations** include our guides leading small groups of students in hands-on classroom activities and garden explorations.
- **Science Labs** provide an up-close look at a topic through experiments and activities. All labs are offered for grades K-12; activities change to meet the unique needs of learners.
- **Discovery Days** offer a unique mix of garden exploration, guided activities and self-guided activities with a variety of learning stations placed throughout the Gardens.
- **Cultivation Cruiser Outreach** brings the Gardens to the classroom with plants, activities and planting projects.

Urban Advantage Denver
In partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver Zoo and Denver Public Schools, the Gardens offers both in and out of the classroom exploration opportunities to improve science literacy among middle school students.

Growing Scientists: Sparking STEM in Early Childhood
Together with Colorado Ballet, Butterfly Pavilion and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, the Gardens offers early elementary physical and life science support to students in kindergarten through third grade in Denver Public Schools.

Plains Conservation Center
In collaboration with the City of Aurora, the Gardens provides educational programs to help students grow their knowledge of the prairie ecosystem and the cultural history of Colorado.