Appendix 9: General Gardening Questions and Resources

1. **Why would I need a background check to work at a public school?**
   In order to work at any school site finger printing and a background check must be done in order to secure the safety of the students.

2. **Why should I get a soil test done?**
   “Our soil is also highly alkaline, which reduces the availability of nutrients for plants and affects what grows successfully. Our soil is also often compacted, which causes poor drainage.”¹ In the event that a soil test is not done, the gardener risks loss of time and money when nothing sprouts because of poor research into the land.

3. **Why do I have to know about planting seasons?**
   It is extremely impossible to grow many plants during winter. With the right amount of planning, plants can grow successfully if planted during their appropriate seasons.

4. **Why would I need to check with the LCPS Plant operations director?**
   If you are planning on building anything on school property, notifying LCPS Plant operations ensures that the structure is not demolished due to lack of communication.

5. **Why would I need to know how to water plants?**
   It is important to know how much water to give a plant in order to prevent it from dying due to over-watering or lack of enough water. It is also important to know how much water to use for budgeting purposes.

¹ Growing the Outdoor Classroom: A handbook on Gardening in Albuquerque Public Schools. (Sept. 2010). Growing Gardens Team.