

Pajaro Valley Students in the Life Lab School Garden Program



Life Lab operated the School Garden Program with Garden Instructors in outdoor garden classrooms in ten elementary schools in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) in 2022-2023. This summary describes findings from UCSC researchers about the impact of Life Lab on students.

Students Served

Life Lab provides engaging, rigorous, garden-based learning for students in the Pajaro Valley who have not historically had access to such programs. The students are largely multilingual learners from Latine families and 85% of them are considered socioeconomically disadvantaged.

“I Can Be A Scientist”

One key goal of Life Lab is to provide students with experiences that promote a positive self-concept in science. This is especially important for students who have not historically seen themselves in science. Our study showed that students who participated in Life Lab were more likely to believe that they could become scientists.

Science Learning

Students showed growth in 3 core Next Generation Science Standards: *what scientists do* (Science and Engineering Practices), *what scientists know* (Disciplinary Core Ideas), and *how scientists think* (Crosscutting Concepts).

Summary

“We observed an exceptional program that has a positive and statistically significant impact on students’ attitudes about science and on their science learning.”

