

## **The Education Fund launches food forest educational exhibits thanks to the Florida Department of Agriculture**

**MIAMI LAKES, FL** - (June 5, 2023) [The Education Fund](#), a leader in the development of food forest education, is excited to announce the addition of educational exhibits at its four flagship food forests in elementary schools in Miami-Dade County.

These eight large-sized exhibits (two at each school) plus 56 tree signs – all with QR codes – are made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with the Florida Forest Service.

The \$22,500 grant ensures the signs, much like those visitors to state and national parks see, are educational tools for teachers and students. Each exhibit details key aspects of a schoolyard food forest such as “What is a School Food Forest?” and “Banana Circles Turn Solar Energy into Food.” Educators use each exhibit as a teaching tool, helping students identify the organic greens in the food forests.

“The signs serve as a wonderful reference point for students. Already, we’re seeing how much they use the signs for classroom assignments,” said Linda Lecht, president of The Education Fund. “Some students enjoy pointing out the various plants and their benefits teaching others about the wonders in their food forests.”

The Education Fund placed the signs at the following schools: Royal Palm Elementary, Lake Stevens Elementary, Twin Lakes Elementary, and W.J. Bryan Elementary.

[The Education Food Forest for Schools program](#) features 51 school gardens, 26 food forests, edible gardens that reach an acre in size, and 25 container gardens. The herbs and greens from the food forests provide food for school lunches and are distributed in harvest bags to students. Teachers use the food forests as outdoor learning labs for a wide range of subjects.

To learn more about the Florida Department of Agriculture food forest signage, contact the Food Forests for Schools program at 305-558-4544, ext. 100.

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### **About The Education Fund**

The Education Fund brings innovative methods to our local public schools, informs the community about public education and encourages private sector investment in public education. Due to its success in improving student outcomes (including improving science scores by 70 percent, eating habits by 52 percent and college enrollment by 34 percent), The Education Fund has won numerous awards, including the TD Ready Challenge, Greater Miami Chamber’s NOVO Award for Non-Profit Excellence, and the Blue Foundation’s Sapphire Prize. Visit [educationfund.org](http://educationfund.org).