By extending your garden’s season, you wind up with not only more produce but more opportunities for learning in the classroom and more ways to continue to involve students. Here are a few different ways to keep the fun going all year long!

**Row Covers**
Perhaps the easiest way to extend the season on some crops out in the garden itself is to use row covers. Spun polyester row cover material, usually called Remay, can be purchased at nurseries or ordered online. Remay comes in different grades with heavier gauges offering more cold protection, but less light transmission. If using Remay for season extension use a heavier gauge since the plants will be well established by the time you cover them and insulation from cold will be more important to their survival than exposure to lots of light.

**Quick Hoops**
Quick hoops are the next step up from row cover; they can be constructed by simply adding wire support under the Remay. This wire support can be in the form of hoops purchased from garden supply stores, or you can make it yourself from stiff wire purchased from hardware stores or even (though a flimsier option) from repurposed old coat hangers – just extend them and bend them into an arch! Quick hoops work best for small-stature crops planted in the fall, such as lettuce, spinach, and cool-weather mixed greens.

**Tunnels**
Tunnels are more permanent, larger season-extending structures that are more elaborate and a little bit more spendy. “Low tunnels” are comprised of sun-resistant plastic on taller hoops. “High tunnels”, hoop houses, and greenhouses are even larger and sturdier options if your school wants to invest in season extension in the long run.

**Bringing the Garden In**
Some plants, like kale, chard, and other greens, can simply be brought inside for the winter. Dig the plants out of the garden in late fall, transplant into 5-gallon containers of garden soil, and move indoors for continued harvesting. To ease transplant shock, it’s best to remove most of the leaves at the time of digging and be sure to give the new leaves adequate time to gradually develop once indoors before harvesting. Annual herbs like dill, cilantro, parsley, and basil can be planted in early fall in large containers indoors for a later fall harvest.