

# Great Oak Academy Chicken Proposal

**We, the sixth grade class of Great Oak Academy, propose:**

- **To change Harrisonburg's current ordinance about chickens (section 15-2-24) to allow us to have chickens in our school garden**

We have done some research and have learned that:

1. Having chickens would benefit us because:
  - Garden chickens would make eggs that are healthier and fresher than store eggs, with yolks that are more yellow
  - The chicken manure would be good for the soil and good for plants in our garden
  - We could sell the chickens' eggs. We would learn responsibility and could raise money for Great Oak trips and other supplies
  - We could give eggs to families in need at our school
2. The best design for a chicken coop is:
  - a simple rectangle frame with wheels on the side and chicken wire around the frame. We want it to be able to move so we can move it to different parts of the garden so the chickens eat certain parts of the grass that we don't want.
3. We would need at least 2 feet of space for each chicken.
4. The supplies we would need are:
  - a hammer and nails, gloves, nontoxic paint, wood planks, wheels, chicken wire, and a drill.
5. Chicken care is pretty easy:
  - Chickens need to be fed once a day.
  - They drink water and eat grain.
  - They like living in grass.
  - We would need to clean out their coop 30 minutes each week.
  - Chickens clean themselves.

Additional questions we have found answers to are:

- Where will we get the money for the chickens?
  - We can have a fundraiser.
- Where will we get the supplies for the coop and who will pay for the supplies?
  - We can write letters to local businesses to see if they will donate supplies.
- How will we take care of the chickens in the summer?
  - We could do summer school and then continue taking care of them ourselves.
- Who will help us build the chicken coop?
  - We will build it ourselves, with the help of our families and other Great Oak teachers.
- How will we take care of the chickens on weekends?
  - We can find a feeder that gives chickens enough food for two days at a time.