

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Whitsett, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	McKeown
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/21, 3/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Department of Education (ODE) to distribute grant money to school districts to ensure that at least 80 percent is used for food procurement and at least 10 percent is used for educational activities. Authorizes ODE to award grant to school district only if district can demonstrate it has or is developing program to both purchase Oregon food products and provide related educational activities. Removes requirement that at least two grants be awarded each biennium under program. Appropriates \$5 million from General Fund to grant program for biennium beginning July 1, 2013. Act effective July 1, 2013.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Farm to School Programs in school districts throughout Oregon
- How programs vary around state
- Cost of locally-source food versus food grown further away
- Economic development opportunity for local farmers to partner with school districts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Directs ODE to distribute grant money to school districts to ensure that at least 80 percent is used for food procurement and at least 10 percent is used for educational activities. Authorizes ODE to award grant to school district only if district can demonstrate it has or is developing program to both purchase Oregon food products and provide related educational activities.

**BACKGROUND:** “Farm to School” programs enable schools to offer fresh, locally sourced products in their cafeterias, and to design corresponding hands-on curricula that may include farm visits, gardening, cooking, composting and recycling. These programs aim to promote mutually beneficial educational activities and economic development by focusing on children’s long-term health habits and academic achievement while supporting local farmers and food processors, both big and small. In 2007, the Legislative Assembly provided funding to support one farm-to-school coordinator position at the Department of Agriculture and one position at ODE. In 2011, House Bill 2800 was enacted that allowed school districts to apply for a grant from ODE for the reimbursement for costs incurred to purchase Oregon food products and to fund certain educational activities. House Bill 2649 would revise some of the grant distribution requirements and appropriate \$5 million from the General Fund to the grant program.