



ROB S. SAXTON
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

HB 4090: Summer Meals Program
Senate Education & Workforce Development Committee
Joyce Dougherty
February 18, 2014

Chair Hass and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Joyce Dougherty. I am the Director for the Child Nutrition and USDA Foods Programs. These programs are located within the Office of Learning/Student Services, in the Department of Education. With me is Darcy Miller, a Child Nutrition Specialist with the Oregon Child Nutrition Programs.

Background

USDA provides program operating regulations to support the Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program. In general, the operating regulations specify income guidelines for determining special cash assistance, menu patterns, nutrient standards, pricing the meal as a unit, and use of program revenues. For a meal or snack to be claimed for reimbursement by the local sponsors that meal or snack must meet the menu pattern.

You are familiar with the National School Lunch Program, which is designed to give students access to nutritious, low-cost lunches during the school day. When school is out and parents are still at work, children and adolescents need a supervised place to be with their friends. The Summer Food Service Program and the Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program fill that nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need.

The Summer Food Service Program is designed to feed children in low-income areas, regardless of household income, during the summer when school is not in session. ODE CNP encourages school districts that currently operate the Summer Food Service Program to operate the program from the first day of summer vacation to the last day. In Oregon last summer there were 135 sponsors and 825 sites.

The Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program is designed to serve meals and snacks to attract children and adolescents into constructive activities that are safe, fun, and filled with opportunities for learning. This program provides a nutritional boost to children and adolescents in low income areas. The food gives them the nutrition they need to learn and grow. There are currently 95 sponsors and 381 sites. I would like to bring your attention to seven facts of these programs:

- Students are hungry after school and during summer
- Offering a snack just is not enough

- CNP meals benefit Oregon families
- Financially sustainable for after school programs to operate
- Attracts kids to expanded learning opportunities
- Promotes community building
- Gives kids energy to focus academically and decreases behavioral issues

ISSUE

The Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program Start-Up/Expansion Grant funds are currently limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per organization, which is not enough money to actually help Sponsors expand their participation in the program or new Sponsors to start-up an after school meals and snack program.

There are strict guidelines limiting how grantees can use the awarded funds. In order for grantees to meet the goal of increasing participation and/or expanding access for after school meals and snack program more flexibility is required.

Legislation

HB 4090 increases the maximum amount allowed for the Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program Start-Up/Expansion Grant. Increasing the grant funds from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per organization, will help increase sponsor participation, and thereby increase the number of students receiving nutritious meals after school and during the summer.

HB 4090 will fund participant enrichment activities and materials providing expanded learning opportunities, and allow more flexibility for sponsors receiving grants.

HB 4090 allows ODE Child Nutrition Programs to be more flexible in distributing additional start-up funds to grant recipients and help ease the administrative workload for ODE Child Nutrition Programs and increase staff efficiencies.

FISCAL

The state dollars provided by this bill will not reduce or impact the federal meal reimbursement rate sponsors receive for meals served. The state dollars provided by this bill will not impact the ODE State School Fund budget. This bill will help support school districts and non-profit organizations in their efforts to participate in the Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program and Summer Food Service Program.

SUMMARY

- 1) Child Nutrition Programs will work closely with Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon, Oregon ASK and other partners. This bill will allow Child Nutrition Programs to be responsive to the needs of school districts, non-profit organizations, and the communities they serve.
- 2) ODE CNP is ready, willing and able to implement House Bill 4090

This bill benefits Oregon's children, schools, private non-profit organizations, and communities.

HB 4090 passed the House 60-0.

We are happy to answer any questions.