



# Oregon Department of Education

Kate Brown, Governor

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April 23, 2015

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) respectfully requests approval to apply for a federal 2015 Professional Standards Training Grant (CFDA #10.547) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) in the amount of \$150,000.

## **Agency Action**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) made significant changes to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in all aspects of program administration. These changes require school nutrition personnel at every level of administration to have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to properly operate and oversee the programs. Section 306 of the Act directed the USDA to establish minimum national professional standards for all school nutrition employees who manage and operate the School Meal Programs.

Professional standards help ensure school nutrition personnel have the knowledge and training necessary to perform their duties and responsibilities effectively. The professional standards developed by USDA include minimum hiring standards for the selection of State directors and local school nutrition program directors as well as continuing education/training requirements for all school nutrition program employees. USDA issued a final rule in March 2015 with implementation of the rule's requirements effective July 1, 2015.

To facilitate and support increased training efforts, including the future Professional Standards requirements, FNS is offering grants to State agencies to develop and implement training programs for school nutrition personnel.

Funds will support online and/or in person trainings for school nutrition personnel that meet one or more of the training objectives: Nutrition, Operations, Administration, and Communications/Marketing. ODE plans to use training opportunities available through the National Food Service Management Institute, Stalker Institute, Kansas State University, or other comparable training institutions to help school nutrition staff obtain the required hours of training. We will use training from one of the listed institutions or comparable institutions to offer online and/or in person training. Many of the trainings are written as train-the-trainer, so we will record the training for online use or present the training in person to school nutrition personnel.

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
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The grant supports the agency's mission *to foster excellence for every learner* and is aligned closely to ODE's guiding values. These values include a high quality education for every student – an education that includes not only delivering high-quality curriculum and instruction and fostering a love of learning but also attending to the needs and wellness of the whole child. Adequate nutrition and a healthy environment help to ensure children's basic needs are met. In the absence of meeting these basic needs, children are at risk of not being ready to learn. By expanding and enhancing educational opportunities for CNP sponsors, we support and help sponsors in delivering quality Child Nutrition Programs.

This grant does not require cost sharing or matching funds nor is additional staffing needed to carry out the activities under the grant. Once ODE completes its application, it will submit it to the Legislative Fiscal Office for review. The application deadline for the grant is June 8, 2015.

**Action Requested**

The ODE respectfully requests permission to apply to USDA for a \$150,000 Professional Standards Training Grant.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

Sincerely,



Rob Saxton  
Deputy Superintendent  
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
(503)-947-5740

Cc:

Sarah Drinkwater, Office of Learning – Student Services, ODE  
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