



February 27, 2019

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

I am the director of the Learning Gardens Program at the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation.

I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2579 and the -2 Amendments, to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs. Farm to School Programs support students, farmers and communities.

Specifically, I have seen it make a difference for students, teachers and families. The garden setting has a way of calming the most behaviorally challenging student and allows their minds to open to open to learning. Experiential education helps teachers meet core standards in a hands on way that students remember.

I have witnessed how teaching students about nutrition by growing it in the garden and then preparing the food with them, they are willing to try new foods and my healthy choices.

The attached article was written based on surveys of students in Houck and Parrish Middle Schools in Salem during the 2016-2017 and 2017-18 school years. This research done by graduate students at Purdue University verifies the values of garden based education.

Charoenmuang, M., Martin, A., Knobloch, N.A., Esters, L.T., & Kelley, S. (2018). Promoting indirect academic outcomes and future aspirations via food and garden activities. NACTA Journal, Volume 61, Supplement 1, 104.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service,

Brenda Knobloch
Learning Gardens Program Director
2018 Ag in the Classroom Educator of the Year

