



Summary of HB 2579, amendment, allocation and impact

HB 2579 would provide funding, in the form of grants administered by Oregon Department of Education (ODE), to reimburse school districts for their purchases of Oregon grown and processed foods and for farm- and garden-based education.

The Farm to School Bill passed in 2017 (HB 2038) provided \$4.5 million in funding for the Program, which is now included in ODE's base budget at \$4.65 million. Last school year, with an investment of **\$1.6 million** by the legislature, Oregon schools leveraged federal funds to purchase **Oregon foods valued at \$14 million**, including \$1.3 million of fresh Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables, **reaching 240,000 students**.

HB 2579 requests an additional \$10.35 million for a total of **\$15 million**, which would provide:

- additional funding for the current grants
- new funding for purchases of Oregon food for summer meals
- new funding for Head Start and other preschool settings to participate
- technical assistance
- Grant Program evaluation
- infrastructure grants for producers selling to schools

The recommended Amendment makes the following changes to the Bill:

- 1) Increase funding provided by the Bill from \$4.5M to \$10.35M
- 2) Establish grants for producers ready to sell to schools, for infrastructure and equipment needed to sell to schools, including administrative costs for the agency.
- 3) Remove specific allocations for each grant program, which will be specified in a Budget Report.

Funds for HB 2579 will be allocated in a Budget Report as follows:

\$10.35 M in HB 2579

\$	7,360,000	Procurement grants
\$	1,580,000	Education grants
\$	740,000	Technical assistance, training, and resources
\$	500,000	Producer infrastructure grants
\$	110,000	ODE administration
\$	60,000	Grant program evaluation
\$	10,350,000	Total allocation for HB 2579

Total allocations for the Grant Program (\$10.35M, plus \$4.65M in ODE's base budget)

Total allocation

\$	11,000,000	Procurement grants
\$	2,500,000	Education grants
\$	740,000	Technical assistance, training, and resources
\$	500,000	Producer infrastructure grants
\$	200,000	ODE administration
\$	60,000	Grant program evaluation
\$	15,000,000	Total allocation for Program

Below is more information about how the additional funding will be used and its expected impact during the 2019-2021 biennium.

Procurement Grants for purchases of Oregon-grown and –processed foods (\$7.4M)

Approximately \$180,000 for Head Start and other early care and education programs to purchase Oregon foods. This funding would incentivize purchases of Oregon-grown or –processed foods at approximately 60 early childcare and education sites.

Approximately \$110,000 for districts not currently participating in ODE’s Farm to School Procurement Grants. This would incentivize approximately 30 new districts to purchase Oregon foods.

Approximately \$133,000 to reimburse current grantees who are summer meal sponsors for purchase Oregon foods for summer meals. This funding would incentivize purchases of Oregon-grown or –processed foods provided by approximately 109 summer meal sponsors.

Approximately \$40,000 for summer meal sponsors that are not currently eligible for ODE’s Farm to School Procurement Grants. This funding would encourage purchases of Oregon-grown or –processed foods provided by approximately 183 additional summer meal sponsors.

Approximately \$6,500,000 for new competitive grants to sustain and incentivize successful farm to school efforts including purchasing and promotion. This would allow the 95 of the current 120 Farm to School Procurement grantees, who are ready and able to purchase more Oregon-grown and processed foods, to do so, and would help support over 400 producers state-wide. These competitive grants would prioritize purchases that have the highest impact on economic development and student health such as purchases directly from producers in the same County and/or purchases of products to which students aren’t usually exposed. When we surveyed current grantees about their need for additional funding for the farm to school grants, nearly 80% of grantees said they had a need for additional funding. Based on their responses we estimate the need for additional funds to be \$6.5 million.

Approximately \$500,000 for grantees and their partners to provide education or promotion related to purchases of Oregon foods. This funding would allow Procurement Grantees to provide educational activities and/or promotion of local foods for example, tasting tables with samples of local foods, inviting a farmer into the cafeteria, posters highlighting Oregon grown foods served.

Education Grants for food-, farm- and/or garden-based education (\$1.6M)

Approximately \$45,000 to add Head Start and other Early Childcare and Education settings as eligible entities for Education grants. This funding could support food-, farm- and garden-based education at 5-10 sites, reaching approximately 2,000 children.

Approximately \$1,570,000 to fund approximately 45 new farm and garden-based education programs, reaching approximately 44,000 students. The existing education grant program did not provide adequate funding to provide grants to the many qualified programs applying.

Technical assistance, training, and resources (\$740,000)

This is much needed funding for state-wide, regional and community partners to provide technical assistance, training, and resources to current and potential grantees, producers and other stakeholders who are involved with farm to school and school garden programs in Oregon. Oregon schools would now have adequate funding to purchase Oregon foods using ODE's Farm to School Grants but many do not have the resources or support to be successful. For example, we need to develop a comprehensive online directory of school-ready producers and products. And producers need support from Oregon Department of Agriculture in working with the school food marketplace, including food safety and product development. In addition, new early childcare and education settings and new summer meals sponsors will need support. This funding would provide technical assistance, training and resources for 1500 farm to school and school garden stakeholders in all Oregon counties.

Infrastructure grants for producers (\$500,000)

Many producers lack the on-farm harvesting, handling and processing equipment to sell to schools. This additional funding could provide grants to between 15-50 producers.

Evaluation of the grant program (\$60,000)

This funding would be give ODE and partners capacity to develop and implement evaluation of the ODE Farm to School Grant Program, including evaluation of economic impact, educational outcomes, health outcomes and grant administration.

Administrative costs for ODE (\$200,000)

Oregon Department of Education will need a full-time Operations Policy Analyst 1 and a part-time Administrative Specialist 1, to administer the Grant Program.

Prepared by:

Megan Kemple, Director

Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network

541-344-4329 (office) 541-225-8807 (cell)

megan@oregonfarmtoschool.org

www.oregonfarmtoschool.org



Education Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

June 2, 2019

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network, I am writing to express *our strong support for HB 2579* and the recommended Amendments, and to request your support for the bill.

The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network is made up of over 1200 participants including representatives from over 500 businesses, organizations and agencies including school districts, food producers, non-profit organizations, public agencies, and other stakeholders involved with farm to school and school garden programs in Oregon.

Oregon's Farm to School program was created in 2007 and is a model for the country. Farm to school *connects students and their families with healthy local food* by changing food purchasing and education practices as schools, connecting kids with Oregon agriculture, bridging the rural-urban divide, and supporting Oregon's farmers!

Since 2011 the Legislature has provided \$10.4 million in funding for grants administered by Oregon Department of Education, to reimburse K-12 schools for their purchases of Oregon-grown and Oregon-processed foods and for farm and garden-based educational activities.

When the state makes this investment, schools purchase foods from Oregon vendors, keeping the entire amount of their purchases, the majority of which are paid with federal funds, circulating within the Oregon economy, rather than going out of state. Last school year, with an investment of **\$1.6 million** by the legislature, Oregon schools leveraged federal funds to purchase **Oregon foods valued at \$14 million**, including \$1.3 million of fresh Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables, **reaching 240,000 students!**

HB 2579, would provide funding, in the form of grants administered by Oregon Department of Education (ODE), to reimburse school districts for their purchases of Oregon grown and processed foods and for farm- and garden-based education.

The Farm to School Bill passed in 2017 (HB 2038) provided \$4.5 million in funding for the Program, which is now included in ODE's base budget at \$4.65 million.

HB 2579 requests an additional \$10.35 million for a total of **\$15 million**, which would provide:

- additional funding for the current grants
- new funding for purchases of Oregon food for summer meals
- new funding for Head Start and other preschool settings to participate
- technical assistance
- Grant Program evaluation
- infrastructure grants for producers selling to schools

Farm to School is a Win! Win! Win!

Kids win: Farm to school provides all kids access to nutritious, high quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school activities enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition.

Farmers win: Farm to school can serve as a significant financial opportunity for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers by opening the doors to new markets.

Communities win: Farm to school benefits everyone from students, teachers and administrators to parents and farmers, providing opportunities to build family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates new jobs and strengthens Oregon's economy.

Attached is a two page document about the benefits and impact of HB 2579 including a list of over 80 endorsing organizations, school districts and businesses. I've also submitted, separately, a Summary of the Bill and the recommended Amendment, how the funding will be allocated and its impact for the Committee's review during the Hearing.

Please join us in supporting this very important legislation.

Sincerely,



Megan Kemple, Director
541- 344-4329 (office) 541-225-8807 (cell)
megan@oregonfarmtoschool.org
www.oregonfarmtoschool.org

HB 2579 Vote 'Yes' for Farm to School and School Gardens!



Last school year, with an investment of \$1.6 million by the legislature, Oregon schools purchased Oregon foods valued at \$14 million, including \$1.3 million of fresh fruits and vegetables, reaching 240,000 students. **We could be doing even more.**

What does HB 2579 do?

Oregon's nationally-recognized Farm to School Grant Program (funded by HB 2038 in 2017) provides funding for:

1. school districts to purchase Oregon foods, and
2. districts and partner organizations to educate children about food, gardens, and agriculture.

HB 2579 expands funding for the Program to:

- Provide additional funding for schools to buy more food from more Oregon farmers, ranchers and processors and for farm and garden based education;
- Expand service early care and pre-K sites, and summer meal programs, to reach our youngest, most vulnerable eaters;
- Provide support to producers who are ready to sell to schools; and
- Provide technical assistance to stakeholders and conduct program evaluation.

Farm + School = Win! Win! Win!

Farmers win: Last school year, this program helped put \$14 million dollars into the pockets of Oregon producers and their distributors. Schools represent a significant market opportunity for producers, benefitting our rural communities

Kids win: Farm to School is a proven strategy for increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables in school meals and at home. Tastings and gardening activities enhance classroom curricula through hands-on learning in food, agriculture, health, and nutrition.

Communities win: Farm to School benefits students, teachers, parents and producers, providing opportunities for family and community engagement. Buying from local producers and processors creates jobs and relationships, strengthening Oregon's economy and culture.

Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program has many benefits, including:

- Creating market opportunities for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers and food processors
- Increasing children's consumption of fruits and vegetables and shaping life-long healthy eating habits
- Bridging urban-rural divides, and bringing Oregon's coastline inland

For every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

Every dollar we spend on Farm to School and School Gardens makes a difference to Oregon kids who deserve a steady diet of healthy, local food, and to Oregon's agricultural community who depend on strong domestic markets to grow their businesses.

We endorse HB 2579, Oregon's Farm to School Bill!

1000 Friends of Oregon
Adelante Mujeres
Adrian School District No. 61
Beaverton School District
Bend LaPine Schools
Blachly School Dist. #90
Black Tansy Farm
Bountiful Bethel
Cascade School District #5
Centennial School District
Central Curry School District 1
Central Point School District #6
Corvallis Environmental Center
Corvallis School District
Cultivate Oregon
Culver School District
Curry Watersheds Partnership
Ecotrust
EdenAcres Environmental Education
Estacada School District
Farmers Market Fund
FOOD for Lane County
Food Roots
FoodCorps
Friends of Family Farmers
Garden Farms Foundation
Garden Farms of Oregon
Grants Pass School District
Green Heart Garden, LLC
Grow Portland
Growing Gardens
Hillsboro School District
Hood River Organic
Hummingbird Wholesale
Institute of Permaculture Education for Children
James Beard Public Market
Jefferson School District 14J
KairosPDX
La Grande School District
Lake Health District
Lake Oswego School District
Lebanon Community Schools
Malheur County Cattlemen's Association
Marcola School District

Marion-Polk Food Share
McKinney Elementary School
Morrow County School District
Mudbone Grown, LLC
Multnomah County Health Department
Multnomah Education Service District
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Neskowin Valley School
Newberg School District 29J
Newport High School-Cubby Preschool
Oregon Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Head Start Association
Oregon Health and Science University
Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network
Oregon Organic Coalition
Oregon School Nutrition Association
Oregon Trail School District
Organically Grown Company
OtterBee's Market
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Pearmine Farms, Inc.
Phoenix School of Roseburg
Portland Public Schools
Port Orford-Langlois School District 2CJ
Relief Nursery, Inc.
Rockford Grange #501
Rogue Valley Farm to School
Sauvie Island Center
School Garden Project of Lane County
ShelterWorks Ltd.
Silver Falls School District
Slow Food Wallowas
St. Helens School District
Supa Fresh Youth Farm
The Curriculum of Cuisine
The Environmental Center
Tillamook County Creamery Association
Truitt Family Foods
Umatilla School District
Valley View Orchard
Willamina School District
Yamhill-Carlton School District
Zenger Farm



To learn more, contact:

Megan Kemple, Director

Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network

megan@oregonfarmtoschool.org

541-344-4329