

**HB 2579 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use**

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**Action Date:** 04/02/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments  
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Boshart Davis, Clem, Helm, McLain, Post, Smith DB, Williams

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/28, 4/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Expands the types of entities that may receive a noncompetitive Farm-to-School grant to purchase food produced or processed in Oregon to include Child and Adult Care Food Program center-based providers and Summer Food Service Program meal providers. Expands the usage of noncompetitive grant funds to include payment for costs incurred to identify food sources or to process food. Establishes a new competitive grant to encourage and sustain successful efforts to purchase or promote food produced or processed in-state. Expands the types of entities that may receive a competitive Farm-to-School grant for food-based, agriculture-based, or garden-based educational activities to include Child and Adult Care Food Program center-based providers and in-state food producers including farmers, ranchers, and seafood harvesters. Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to evaluate the effectiveness of the Farm-to-School Grant Program, including economic impact, educational outcomes, health outcomes, and program administration. Directs ODE to enter into agreements with state, regional, or community partners to provide technical assistance, training, and resources, and allows ODE to enter into agreements with these partners for the payment of administrative costs. Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to ODE, and specifies the following expenditures: \$3.799 million for procurement grants, \$898,000 for education grants, \$60,000 for the Farm-to-School Program impact evaluation, \$143,000 for technical assistance, training, and resources, and \$100,000 for administrative costs. Declares emergency, and takes effect on July 1, 2019.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Oregon Farm-to-School Grant Program
- Investment history and outcomes
- Roles of, and relationships between, farmers, ranchers, food processors, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies
- Youth perspectives on the Program
- Anticipated uses for increased funding

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Expands the usage of noncompetitive grant funds to include payment for costs incurred to identify sources of foods or to process those foods. Expands the types of entities that may receive competitive grant funds to include in-state food producers including farmers, ranchers, and seafood harvesters. Clarifies ODE may enter into agreements with state, regional, or community partners for the payment of administrative costs. Requires ODE ensure that training, in addition to technical assistance and resources, are provided to potential grant applicants and recipients. Removes the requirement for ODE to enter into an agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) for ODA to train food producers and processors on the program, to distribute funding for infrastructure and equipment, and to distribute funding to incentivize selling food surpluses at reduced cost.

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Removes the requirement for ODE to enter into an agreement with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to allow the Oregon State University Extension Service to coordinate training, research, regional support, online resources, and other resources for potential grant applicants and recipients. Changes total appropriation from \$8.5 million to \$5 million, and specifies the following expenditures: \$3.799 million for procurement grants, \$898,000 for education grants, \$60,000 for the Farm-to-School Program impact evaluation, \$143,000 for technical assistance, training, and resources, and \$100,000 for administrative costs.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Farm-to-School Grant Program (Program) awards grants to school districts to purchase Oregon food products and to provide food-based, agriculture-based, or garden-based educational activities. The Program was established in 2011, and is administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

In 2013, House Bill 2649 amended the law to allow schools to apply for grants that were either seeking reimbursement for Oregon food product purchases or seeking to fund educational activities, rather than requiring both. In 2015, House Bill 2721 specified that grants for food purchased or processed in-state would be noncompetitive grants, and that grants for food-based, agriculture-based, or garden-based educational activities would be competitive grants. The bill required ODE to base the amount of noncompetitive grant money awarded to schools on the number of lunches served by school districts during the previous school year under the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program. The bill also added nonprofit organizations and commodity commissions and councils to the list of eligible recipients for competitive grant funds. In 2017, House Bill 2038 appropriated specified amounts of funding to be used for noncompetitive grants, competitive grants, and administrative costs. The bill also expanded the list of organizations that may be considered for competitive education grants to include federally recognized Indian tribes, schools overseen by the Bureau of Indian Education, and soil and water conservation districts.

House Bill 2579 A would expand the types of entities that may receive Farm-to-School grants, establish a new competitive grant, direct ODE and specified partners to evaluate program outcomes and provide technical assistance, training, and resources, and would appropriate \$5 million from the General Fund.