

Submitter: Crystal Weston
On Behalf Of: Crystal Weston- TTSD Board Member
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1581
Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Crystal Weston, and I live in Tigard, Oregon. I am submitting written testimony as an individual school board member at Tigard Tualatin School District in support of SB 1581: School Meals for All.

This bill will support students so that once they make it to school they can rely on breakfast and lunch at no cost, regardless of income. With a shrinking safety net and increasing costs for families, this is a critical step to addressing hunger and ensuring that students can focus on learning rather than worrying about food.

SB 1581 also makes breakfast accessible after the start of the school day, recognizing that many students arrive late due to transportation barriers or family work schedules. Allowing breakfast to be served in the classroom and counted as instructional time means we will meet basic needs for food without losing valuable learning time.

The bill also reduces administrative burdens for schools by eliminating meal applications, income verification, and unpaid meal debt collection, which helps schools focus on teaching. This also protects students from stigma and meal shaming, helping create school environments rooted in dignity, equity, and inclusion. Shame should NOT be a required payment for food when we have better options. As an individual board member at Tigard Tualatin School District and as a parent of kids who casually opt for a school meal on occasion, I have had the chance to watch this policy play out in our district and it's something that every community in Oregon would benefit from.

When students have reliable access to nutritious food, schools see improved attendance, fewer disciplinary incidents, and stronger academic outcomes. SB 1581 also means that districts buy healthy foods in bulk instead of families spending more per meal. In tough budget times, the positive impact of this policy on working families, student outcomes, district operations and our community as a whole makes SB 1581 a wise investment.

With only a small number of schools remaining before Oregon becomes a Hunger-Free Schools state, I urge you to vote YES on SB 1581 so we can ensure that no child in Oregon goes hungry at school.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Crystal Weston
Tigard Tualatin School District, Board Member