



To: Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Re: Support SB 1581

Date: 2/6/2026

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 26, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

Latino Network is proud to offer food pantry support at the SUN community school programs we operate in the Multnomah County area. We are seeing first hand the precarity of food access and the nutritional and educational consequences that result when children do not have stable access to healthy food.

SB 1581 ensures that every student can access breakfast and lunch at school at no cost, regardless of income. This is a critical step to addressing hunger during an affordability crisis and ensuring that students can focus on learning rather than worrying about food.

At a time when food assistance is being cut at the federal level, and nation-wide prices for food continue to rise, Oregon can ensure that our youngest residents have stable meals at school. While this won't solve all the whole range of food security needs it does make a major difference towards achieving broader public health despite federal decisions. Oregon is working hard to shift trends on educational attainment and behavioral health in schools; when children are hungry in school we are not able to achieve these goals. Research consistently shows that when students have reliable access to nutritious food, schools see improved attendance, fewer disciplinary incidents, and stronger academic outcomes.

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