



HB 2721: FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDENS

Healthy food for healthy learning... and a healthy economy

Connecting Classrooms, Crops and Cafeterias

Farm to School and School Garden programs work to:

- Create market opportunities for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers and food processors
- Improve youth and adults' knowledge of & attitudes toward agriculture, food and nutrition
- Increase children's consumption of fruits & vegetables
- Improve children's life-long healthy eating habits
- Bridge urban-rural divides, and bring Oregon's coastline inland
- Increase community food security by strengthening local food systems

Oregon's Farm to School Program is Working

- Legislature created positions in the Departments of Agriculture and Education in 2007 and 2008 to support farm to school and school garden programs
- Legislature created a grant program in 2011 and expanded it in 2013, to help schools to purchase foods that are produced or processed in Oregon, and to provide "agriculture, food and garden-based education"
- Funds are currently awarded by competitive grants
- Most participating districts want to continue, and new ones want to join
- Farmers and processors like selling to schools but need more stability and a stronger market

Proposed Improvements Based on Lessons Learned

To better serve producers and schools

- Give all districts a fair share of the food funds, based on school lunches served. Districts will still be required to track and report on local purchases
- Allow districts to use the funds for local foods for any school meal programs, not just lunch
- Still award the funds for "agriculture, food and garden-based education" by competitive grants, but let non-profit organizations and commodity commissions also apply
- Expand total funding to \$5.6M to benefit all districts, and to let farmers and processor count on consistent buyers

This investment will directly benefit Oregon farmers and producers, stimulating rural economies, promoting healthy eating, and stemming long-term health care costs.

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Districts And Communities All Over Oregon are Benefitting

Twenty-six school districts have received grants so far. Highlights include:

Bend: Piloted “Boat to School” program with fish and shrimp from the Oregon coast, and brought three fishing representatives (Oregon Trawl Commission and Bornstein Seafood) inland for “Boat To School” day. Also worked with the FFA to raise, slaughter, and serve local pork: students learned the business, agricultural, and culinary side of their project from “pork to fork” and the district is able to serve local food.

Clatskanie: Using a Youth Advocates 4 Health program where teens are trained on gardening, nutrition, and food safety. Teens serve as role models and health advocates in their school and broader community.

Gladstone: Purchased primarily locally-processed breads and cut vegetables. Developed a relationship with a local farm, Livesay Farm, from which the school bought some food and where students went to plant and harvest crops in the fall and in the spring.

Molalla: High School “Culture Club” has focused on creating and cultivating a new giant courtyard garden, which has changed the culture on campus for the better, has transformed teen’s lives, and even decreased vandalism and youth problems in the community.

Roseburg: Purchased over \$3,000 in local berries and also over \$3,000 in (combined) apples and pears, plus Oregon-made breads, and lightly processed corn, beans, and other vegetables. Built a new learning garden and garden program: bought 10 yards of soil, worm bins, wheelbarrows, shovels, irrigation, teaching kits and more.

Sisters: “Feature days” in the cafeterias have highlighted local products, including: Boat to School Day featuring Oregon tuna, Oregon Burger Day featuring Oregon beef, Tillamook cheese, and Franz buns, Local Bagel Day featuring Oregon bagels, and Local Potato day featuring a potato bar.

Other participating districts in the 2013 Pilot and/or 2013-15 Grant:

Beaverton, Bethel, Centennial, Corvallis, Eugene 4J, Gladstone, Hillsboro, Joseph, Lebanon, McMinnville, North Powder, Oakridge, Ontario, Portland, Port Orford, Rainier, Salem-Keizer, Sherman, South Lane, Springfield, Yamhill-Carlton



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