

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 requests the renewal of \$4.5 million and an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$5 million to:

- Provide \$3.8 million for schools to buy more food from more Oregon farmers, ranchers and processors and \$900,000 for farm and garden based education;
- Expand service to 50 early care and pre-K sites, and 120 summer meal programs, to reach our youngest, most vulnerable eaters; 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:

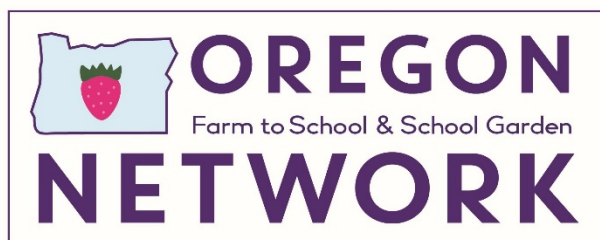
- Creating market opportunities for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers and food processors
- Increasing children's consumption of fruits and vegetables and shaping life-long healthy eating habits
- Bridging urban-rural divides, and bringing Oregon's coastline inland

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
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
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
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Neskowin Valley School
Newberg School District 29J
Newport High School-Cubby Preschool
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
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
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
Valley View Orchard
Willamina School District
Yamhill-Carlton School District
Zenger Farm



To learn more, contact:

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