

HB 3030 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/15, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Universal School Meal Account in State Treasury. Continuously appropriates moneys in Universal School Meal Account to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for purposes of reimbursing school districts for costs incurred in providing federally reimbursable meal to student not otherwise reimbursed. Requires ODE to prioritize distributions to schools that offer reimbursable breakfast or lunch to all students. Permits ODE to reallocate funds, request additional appropriations, and solicit gifts, grants, or donations for reimbursements. Permits State Board of Education to adopt rules necessary for making reimbursements. Applies to costs incurred on or after effective date. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Nutrition and quality of school meals
- Barriers to applying for free and reduced lunch
- Academic outcomes for kids receiving school meals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Establishes Task Force on Healthy School Meals for All. Specifies membership of task force. Requires task force to make recommendations to offer free school meals to all public school students in Oregon, to remove nonfinancial barriers to providing health school meals, and for implementation. Requires task force to submit preliminary report by December 31, 2023 and final report by September 15, 2024. Requires Oregon Department of Education to provide staff support to task force. Directs all public bodies to assist task force in its duties. Requires State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer school meal programs for public prekindergarten through grade 12 and rules to maximize availability of school meals at no charge to students. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

The Student Success Act, House Bill 3427 (2019), created the Hunger Free Schools Account in the State Treasury. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) can use the account to reimburse eligible school districts for the costs of offering reimbursable breakfast and lunch free of charge; eligible districts include both those that are eligible to provide meals to all students under federal law, and those that are not federally eligible but provide meals to students from households up to 300 percent of the poverty line. The second group of districts is reimbursed by the Oregon Expanded Income Eligibility Group (EIG) Reimbursement Program, which is entirely state funded. House Bill 2536 (2021) required school districts in Oregon that are eligible to offer meals to all students at no charge under the National School Lunch Program to do so.

House Bill 2760 (2019) and House Bill 2761 (2019) also proposed policies to reimburse school districts for providing school meals; however, these measures did not pass. House Bill 3030 reintroduces the language of House Bill 2760 (2019) for establishing a Universal School Meal Account.

From 2020 to 2022, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service](#) issued waivers for child nutrition programs, including school meals, to allow programs to continue providing access to food during the COVID-19 pandemic. The [Oregon Department of Education](#) also published resources on the state and national

HB 3030 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

guidance on child nutrition programs in Oregon as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, these policies enabled many schools to offer universal school meals until the modified guidance expired in August 2022.

House Bill 3030 establishes the Universal School Meal Account for the purposes of reimbursing the costs of offering reimbursable breakfast and lunch free of charge, if those costs are not otherwise reimbursed.