



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

The Oregon School Nutrition Association Support for Healthy School Meals for All Task Force (HB 3030, amended)

OSNA recognizes and promotes the need for healthy and available meals for all Oregon students. The intent of the Healthy School Meals for All — offering school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge to families — seeks to ensure that all children have access to the nutrition they need to grow and thrive. Healthy School Meals for All improves educational, health, and economic outcomes for students. In addition, it reduces the stigma sometimes associated with school meals, advances racial equity, eliminates the growing school meal debt and offers support for working parents.

Federal pandemic waivers made it possible for Oregon's schools to provide meals at no charge to all students, no matter their household income. Without these waivers, participation in school meals statewide has decreased and the processes necessary to seek free meal benefits may be a barrier to approval and participation and have increased student meal debt statewide.

Oregon became a national leader in expanding access to school meals with the passage of the Hunger-Free Schools provisions in the Student Success Act. Oregon has doubled the number of schools offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to students compared to 2019, before the pandemic. Yet with the expiration of the waiver, 45% of Oregon schools no longer are able to provide this opportunity.

HB 3030 (with the amendment) provides a pathway for Oregon to work toward a solution to further benefit PK-12 students in our schools. HB 3030 will:

- Establish the “Healthy School Meals for All Task Force” to design and recommend a proposal to the legislature to make it viable for every school in Oregon to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge to families; and
- Take advantage of potential federal changes that would extend breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge by requiring Oregon to apply to participate in a state option that would allow the entire state of Oregon to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision, if that option becomes available in the future.

The Healthy School Meals for All Task Force will bring together critical stakeholders to design a solution that is right for Oregon. **HB 3030 puts Oregon on the pathway to offer Healthy School Meals for ALL Oregon's students, and we urge its passage.**

Sincerely,

Debby Webster

OSNA President, 2022-23