



Support for Healthy School Meals for All Task Force (HB 3030, amended)

Healthy School Meals for All — offering school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge to families —helps ensure that all children have 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 “school lunch debt,” and supports working parents.

Federal pandemic waivers made it possible for all schools to provide meals at no charge to all students, no matter their household income. Without these waivers, the alarming spikes in childhood hunger caused by the fallout of COVID-19 would have been even worse. But the waiver authorizing free school meals for all students expired in June 2022.

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.

The pandemic served as a valuable lesson on the critical importance of providing healthy meals to all students. **HB 3030 (with the amendment) provides a pathway for Oregon to develop a solution.** 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 adapt to federal changes.

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 for Oregon to achieve Healthy School Meals for All for Oregon’s students, and we urge its passage.**

Supporting organizations and leaders:

American Heart Association
 Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COASA)
 FoodCorps
 Instacart
 Oregon Education Association
 Oregon Farm to School and School Gardens Network
 Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Pediatric Society
 Oregon School Board Association
 Our Children Oregon
 Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
 Portland Public Schools
 Dr. Andy Saultz, Education Policy, Pacific University