



Dan Kolp
Purchasing Agent
Nutrition Services
Office 503-356-3960
daniel_kolp@beaverton.k12.or.us

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 22, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain and members of the Committee:

I am writing as the purchasing agent for Beaverton SD Nutrition Services in support of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program provides critical funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs, equipment and infrastructure for food producers and technical assistance for the farm to school community. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars will support dependable business relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition.

Being the purchasing agent for nutrition services and as a child nutrition professional I support this grant program because it allows school districts to provide local items that normally would not be affordable. Items such as grapes from Vial Family Farms, Umi Noodles, Red Plate Granola and Thrive Satay Sauce. Additionally, by making these local purchases we are able to expose our students to wonderful, healthy local food options and at the same time help to build a strong local food system and support Oregon's economy.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities. Thank you for your time.

Daniel A Kolp
Purchasing Agent
Beaverton SD Nutrition Services
Beaverton, OR

“USDA and this institution are equal opportunity providers and employers.”