



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

474 North 16th Street
St. Helens, Oregon
97051

503.397.3085

503.397.1907 fax

www.sthelens.k12.or.us

Scot Stockwell
Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD

Melody Killens
Chair

Bill Amos
Vice Chair

Kellie Smith

Ryan Scholl

Trinity Monahan

March 16, 2023

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

I am writing on behalf of St. Helens SD #502 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

I am responsible for procuring goods and services for my department. The grant opens food opportunities that would otherwise not be available to our students. We are able to support Oregon growers and producers along with student's wellbeing. Our students are better fed and educated as to food sources

As a school nutrition professional support this grant program because....

- It builds skills for wellness and health in kids and communities
- It builds a strong local food system and supports our local economy.
- Supports schools as hubs for communities especially during times of crisis such as wildfires and pandemic.
- It supports our Oregon 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.

Sincerely,

Misty Crawford, Nutrition Director

St. Helens SD #502

mistyc@sthelens.k12.or.us

503-366-7234