

Willow Wind Community Learning Center



Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Oregon State Capital
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 12, 2023

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Willow Wind, an alternative program with the Ashland School District, in support of maintaining the current service level of 10.M dollars for the Farm to School Grant Program. This grant program provides critical funding for schools to teach students about nutrition, gardening and important partnerships with local farmers. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars, leverages federal dollars to support dependable business relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition.

As an educator, I have been involved with Farm to School as a resource for information to support our on site gardening program. We have also partnered with them to share ideas and curriculum for other educators in our area. At Willow Wind we are currently working to develop a robust gardening program which teaches students about business (Farm Stand), nutrition, cooking, botany and sustainable practices that will help feed families. Farm to School has been both an inspiration and a support to our efforts.

I support this grant program because it supports schools as hubs for community support.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the state budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Debra Schaeffer Pew, Principal
Willow Wind
Ashland School District
Ashland, Oregon