

Submitter: Casey Berg  
On Behalf Of: 12M for Farm to School  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

3/12/2025

Co-Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and members of the Committee

I am testifying today in support of funding for the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million dollars. This represents a 9% increase from the current service level. This Grant program provides funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs and technical assistance for the farm to school community. This past biennium, there were over \$15 million dollars of requests for this funding. With increases in costs of food, supplies and staffing over the past few years, this modest increase is needed simply to maintain the current level of programming.

I support farm to school because it brings healthy food to schools while also assisting the local economy by supporting our local farms. As a farmer myself, this program is a really beautiful initiative that this state offers and I'm excited to see how it grows and expands.

I support this grant program because over \$6M in Federal funding for Local Food for Schools has been eliminated by the USDA, now more than ever we need to increase state funding for farm to school.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million. Thank you for your time.

Casey Berg  
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