



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

Date : *March 17, 2025*

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

As Board Chair of Rouge Valley Farm to School, I am testifying in support of
funding for the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department
of Education's budget at \$12 million dollars.

The program provides key 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.

The 9% increase from the current service level is critical for a variety of reasons.
There were over \$15 million dollars of requests for this funding this past biennium.
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.
Critically, 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 have seen first hand the impact Farm to School programs by bringing fresh local
food into the schools :improving nutrition, teaching lifelong healthy habits,
supporting a strong local food system, supporting the economy , supporting
schools as hubs in times of crisis. I ask that you support including this grant
program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million. Thank
you for your attention to this request.

Katherine Roselli, Board Chair RVF2S

