



February 5, 2025

On behalf of Oregon's 33 Local Public Health Departments, CLHO fully supports SB 1581.

This bill provides free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of income. This means that struggling families will have \$1400 extra dollars per year per child to put toward dinner, rent, and utilities. This is especially critical right now, as costs continue to increase at the grocery store and the federal government restricts funding and eligibility for SNAP and other food programs.

Educational attainment is the number one indicator of health. Hungry children often experience decreased concentration, increased irritability, and lower academic performance. In other words, it's difficult to learn if you're hungry, because your biological instincts focus on finding food rather than higher-level thinking.

Public Health advocates want all people to obtain optimum health, and SB 1581 removes one barrier to achieving the educational attainment that is so very helpful in doing so.

The -1 amendment removes the additional FTE at ODE and minor technical changes, which we also support.

Please support SB 1581 with the -1 amendments. Free school meals for ALL!

Thank you.

