



# OREGON FARMERS FEEDING OREGON KIDS

**Oregon legislators are poised to bring great Oregon agricultural products - fruits, vegetables and more – into the school lunchroom.**



## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

**HB 3476** (Kotek) Allocates up to 7 (seven) cents per school meal served to incorporate Oregon agricultural products. Connecting Oregon agriculture with Oregon schools, **HB 3307** (Clem) creates a Farm to School Program within the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

These two bills are complemented by **HB 3185** (Clem), which awards mini-grants for school gardens and other agriculture and food-based learning.

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## CHEW ON THIS:

- Oregon is one of a handful of states that doesn't contribute additional funds to support implementation of the National School Lunch and Breakfast program. It's catch up time.
- Oregon agriculture deserves a spot in the lunch line. These bills make it possible for the state's agricultural community – from farmers to food processors, manufacturers and distributors – to bring great Oregon products into the school lunchroom.
- Cafeterias, school gardens and farm fields are great classrooms and Oregon kids deserve to know that they live in one of the most agriculturally diverse states in the country. These bills bridge urban and rural Oregon, restoring much-needed balance and educating kids about where food comes from.
- In Oregon, 43% of the meals we serve in schools go to children participating in the USDA's free or reduced program. For many of these kids, school lunch may be their primary source of food and nutrients all day. These bills would ensure that Oregon's most vulnerable children have equal access to great food.
- Childhood obesity and related health problems are escalating at an alarming rate. These bills present viable strategies for addressing obesity and other weight related issues because eating behaviors practiced during childhood carry over into adulthood.
- With their proven and holistic approach, these bills enjoy widespread support, earning an A+ from schools, parents, agricultural groups, educators, and health professionals far and wide.

**These bills address two issues at once: adequately funding our school lunch program AND bolstering the Oregon agricultural economy.**