

WHAT IS FARM TO SCHOOL?

Farm to school is a movement working to connect local producers with school food buyers, so that community food systems thrive, and students gain access to healthy, local foods. If you would like help connecting with a school or preschool, the Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network can help.

Farm to school looks different at each school or preschool, but always includes one or more of the following:

- **Procurement:** this term is used by schools and simply means purchasing food for school meals. Child nutrition program staff are responsible for planning menus, purchasing products, preparing recipes and serving students throughout the school year and summer. Farm to school “procurement” includes purchasing local foods for meals, snacks and taste-tests.
- **School gardens:** Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening
- **Education:** Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN FARM TO SCHOOL?

There are a lot of ways farmers/producers can engage in the farm to school. The Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network can connect you with potential partners and support structures to help get farmers/producers involved. There is no "one way" to do Farm to School, so find what works best for you!

- Are you a farmer/producer interested in selling products to schools or preschools?
- Would you like to provide educational opportunities for youth such as gardening activities, farm field trips, or cooking/nutrition activities?
- Do you need training, equipment or infrastructure to prepare you to participate?



To learn more contact the [Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network](#)

UNDERSTANDING OREGON'S FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

There are three grant programs that can benefit producers with special opportunities for BIPOC, tribal and women-owned businesses

Grants to purchase Oregon foods:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) offers grant funds to child nutrition programs at schools and preschools that must be used to purchase food from Oregon producers, this means increased opportunity to sell your products. You can start by reaching out to a school or preschool you already have a relationship with, or contact schools or preschools that you want to work with. Ask for an opportunity to discuss your products with the Child Nutrition Program Director to see if they are a good fit for their needs. Be ready to discuss timing, delivery, and quantity available. More information to prepare you for this conversation can be found here, Resources for Producers. Link to ODA's new resources.

Child nutrition programs offered by the ODE are run within schools and preschools/daycare centers. If you need support understanding how to get started selling to schools or getting connected to a school in your area, contact the OFSSGN or find your regional farm to school hub coordinator [Here](#). T

his grant incentivizes purchases from businesses owned or operated by:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- Women
- Veterans
- Tribes
- Producers or processors with fair labor practices
- Producers or processors with foods that celebrate the culinary traditions of students with diverse backgrounds.

This means that child nutrition programs applying for these funds are encouraged to seek out and purchase products from vendors meeting the criteria above.

While producers can't apply for these funds directly, they can work with child nutrition programs who will plan to purchase from their business using these funds

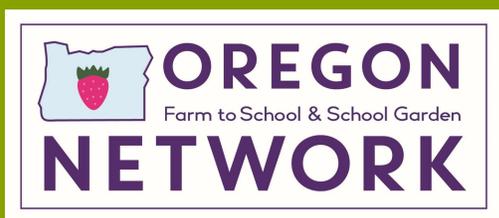
More resources for getting started selling to schools



ODA resources



OFSSGN resources



Grants for Farm and Garden Education:

Education grants offered by the ODE are available to producers to provide farm and garden education to pre k - high school students. This includes farm field trips, garden activities and food education. Education programs can happen during school hours, after school or over the summer. Applicants don't need to be connected with a school, but will need to identify what schools or preschools they plan to serve and what type of educational activities will be offered. Funding can support teaching time, educational materials, and some planning. Priority is given to:

- Applicants who teach about traditional agricultural activities including gathering, gardening, and harvesting
- Applicants that are representative of the diversity of a school's student body
- Applicants who teach food system curriculum that includes the important role of farm workers
- Applicants who reflect the demographics of the students they teach.

These are government grants and therefore have some requirements to consider:

- Insurance requirements- there are specific insurance requirements that can be found on the Oregon Dept. of Education website. Note that insurance costs associated with the grant program can be covered by grant funds so just add them to your proposed budget.
- Reimbursement grant - this is a reimbursement grant that requires the grantees to submit requests for reimbursement after program activities are completed. This can be monthly or however frequently you choose.

The Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network can support you in applying for funds and marketing your products to child nutrition programs

More information and application materials can be found on the [ODE website](#)



Farm to School Education Grantee: Capaces Leadership Institute

Capaces' Anahuac Program is a "seed to table" culturally specific agriculture and culinary education program targeted at farmworker children, youth and their families from the Woodburn School District. Children, youth, and their families will learn and put into practice the gardening, basic farming, production, packaging, and culinary aspects of culturally appropriate agricultural products from their indigenous ethnic background.



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Grants for Equipment and Infrastructure:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) offers grant funds to growers and producers for infrastructure and equipment needed to serve the school marketplace. This grant works in conjunction with the Oregon Food Grants to help producers meet the infrastructure requirements of implementing local sales.

Farm to School Infrastructure and Equipment grants offered by the ODA provide funds to producers to scale up or meet the needs of the school marketplace. Funds are awarded to applicants using an equity lens that prioritizes:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- Women
- Veterans
- Tribes

**More information and application materials
can be found on the [ODA website](#)**

or

Contact [Amy Gilroy](#), ODA Farm to School
Manager: amy.gilroy@oda.oregon.gov



Equipment & Infrastructure Grantee:

Example: Mudbone Grown!

Mudbone Grown was awarded a Farm to School Equipment & Infrastructure grant to expand the diversity of the products they produce, including the use of aquaponics to increase leafy green and vegetable production. Mudbone Grown intends to provide fresh and minimally processed produce to Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Hall as part of their National School Lunch Program and KairosPDX, a Charter School in the Portland Public School System.



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HOW CAN BIPOC PRODUCERS CAN BENEFIT FROM OREGON FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAMS?

OREGON'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY IN FARM TO SCHOOL

Oregon has a robust grant program to support schools, producers, food businesses, and support organizations to build strong farm to school programs that benefit children throughout the state.

The Oregon Department of Education & Oregon Department of Agriculture are deeply committed to using an equity lens when administering grant funds. Agencies understand that current and historical structures have made it more difficult for Black, Indigenous and POC producers access land, capital and market opportunities. There is also a deep commitment to offering culturally appropriate food to students as well as education about diverse food and agriculture traditions.



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