DRAFT

Goals for Farm to School and School Gardens in Oregon

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**Drafted by the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network’s Steering Committee**

with additional input from: Sara Sullivan, Garden of Wonders and Kasandra Griffin and Tia Henderson, Upstream Public Health

**The mission of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network is**:

“We convene statewide leadership to promote the health and well-being of youth, families, farms and the environment by increasing access to locally grown and locally processed food in schools and by supporting food and garden-based education in Oregon.”

The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network supports activities and policies that:

* Increase participation in the school meal program, to improve access to nutritious meals;
* Increase consumption of vegetables and fruits, to improve nutrition and health outcomes;
* Improve knowledge and attitudes about agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment;
* Support economic development by increasing market opportunities for farmers, ranchers, fishers, local food processors, local food distributors, and food manufacturers;
* Promote environmental stewardship; and
* Promote food justice by supporting healthy and equitable community food systems.

**In the next 5 -10 years we hope to achieve the goals outlined below.**

Many of these goals are not currently measurable because there are not systems in place to track them. One of our goals is to establish effective systems to track our progress in the following areas.

**Local food procurement**

* \_\_\_ % of school districts or schools in Oregon are purchasing Oregon-grown or processed products. (Most schools are already purchasing Oregon-grown products, especially milk)
* \_\_\_% of all food purchases made by Oregon schools are Oregon-grown or processed products. (Some products purchased regularly by schools do not grow and/or are not processed in Oregon or are seasonal)
* Schools in Oregon are purchasing at least \_\_\_ lbs. of Oregon grown or raised products each year.
* Each year schools in Oregon are purchasing at least:
	+ $\_\_\_ Oregon grown or raised products
	+ $\_\_\_ Oregon processed products
	+ $ \_\_\_ milk or cheese
* \_\_\_ % of schools are incorporating school garden produce into cafeteria meals.
* These numbers increase each year that they are tracked.
* \_\_\_% of schools have increased the frequency at which they serve Oregon products.
* \_\_\_% of schools have increased the variety of Oregon products they serve.
* Schools across Oregon utilize a wide range of purchasing methods:

\_\_\_ % of school districts are purchasing Oregon products directly from local farmers;

\_\_\_% of school districts are purchasing Oregon products through a distributor;

\_\_\_% of schools are purchasing Oregon products members of purchasing cooperatives; and

\_\_\_ % of schools are purchasing Oregon products using utilizing innovative procurement strategies (such as forward contracting).

**Promotion of local food purchases**

* Oregon Harvest for Schools materials are developed and available for \_\_\_# different products including fruits and vegetables, meat, grains, eggs, seafood, beans and dairy.
* Oregon Harvest for Schools templates are easy to use, downloadable and editable, translated into Spanish, and include space to add producer profiles.
* \_\_\_\_ % of Oregon School Districts are using Oregon Harvest for Schools materials.
* \_\_\_\_% of these schools are using these materials as intended. Posters are used not only as decoration for the cafeteria, but as a promotion for local products being featured at that time.
* \_\_\_% of schools that are making local purchases are doing some form of promotion.
* There are coordinated efforts to increase parents and caregivers of school age children’s knowledge, attitudes and behaviors toward purchasing Oregon foods, that are similarly promoted in schools.

**Farm to School educational programs/activities**

* There is an easily accessible compilation (possibly a searchable website) of Farm to School and School Garden curricula available via the OFSSGN. These materials are specific to Oregon, reviewed/approved by the OFSSGN, place-based, tied to academic content standards where appropriate, and include preschool and high school curricula. Materials developed Nation-wide are also linked here.
* \_\_\_% of schools in Oregon report student involvement in some form of F2S educational programming (farm field trips, local food cooking activities, school garden usage, classroom presentations, tasting tables, etc.) for 15 or more hours during the year.
* \_\_\_ % of districts procuring local foods accompany these purchases with educational or promotional activities.
* \_\_\_ % of schools are offering students experiential, farm/food related field trips (could include a farm, ranch, boat, etc)
* \_\_\_\_ % of schools are connecting to their food and agricultural community by having farmers, chefs or others in the food and agricultural community visit their school.
* \_\_\_ % of students are able to demonstrate knowledge of where their food comes from and how it is grown.
* \_\_\_\_% of students are able to demonstrate knowledge of how their food choices impact their health, the environment and their community.

**School gardens**

* \_\_\_% of schools in Oregon have an edible garden which is actively used for educational activities.
* \_\_\_ % of school gardens are contributing some produce to their school's meal program.
* \_\_\_\_ % of school gardens have a designated, funded School Garden staff position (School Garden Coordinator or Educator)
* There are consistent food safety recommendations for school gardens in Oregon that are protective of student health and feasible for school garden programs to implement.

**Policy and State Agency Support**

* State funding is *available* for every district for local purchasing and farm and garden based education, through HB2800 or equivalent (recognizing that all schools do not need this funding).
* The funding is established as permanent/recurring in the state budget.
* Funding for Farm to School and/or School Garden Programs and staff within ODA and ODE are secure with resources for these agencies to provide technical assistance and support (funding could go elsewhere) for farm to school and school garden implementation at the school and district level.
* Funding for implementation of HB 2800 includes funding for districts or ODE to track and monitor local purchases, funding for districts to link cafeteria with classroom/garden activities, and encouraging community support. Additional capacity at ODE to is available to administer funds if the pilot HB2800 expands.
* State agencies support incorporation of food from school gardens into meals served in schools and state agencies provide consistent food safety recommendations for school gardens in Oregon that are protective of student health and feasible for school garden programs to implement.

**Health Outcomes**

* The number of children consuming the daily recommended amount of fruits and vegetables increases by \_\_\_ % **or** Oregon children report an increase of at least one serving a day of fruits and vegetables.
* The number of students participating in free/reduced meals who are eligible increases by an average of \_\_\_ % across all school districts.
* The number of healthy weight children increases by \_\_\_% in five years.

**Partnerships**

* The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network includes stakeholders from all geographic regions of the state and includes participation from Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Education, OSU Extension, non-profit organizations, farms, school food services administrators, Commodity Commissions, distributors, youth, public health professionals, farms and food producers, and educators.
* Non-traditional alliances have been formed and have strengthened the movement in Oregon.
* Existing programs, such as Oregon State Extension Master Gardeners, Future Farmers of America, Oregon Department of Health, and public state universities (i.e. OSU, Eastern Oregon University, UofO, PSU) collaborate with other farm to school and school garden stakeholders across the state to efficiently utilize existing resources to support farm to school and school garden efforts.
* Local research is conducted on F2S programming by collaborative arrangements (may include local non-profits, schools, districts, the Oregon Health Authority, ODE and ODA, OSU Extension).