

Executive Numbered Memo 002-2015-16 - SB 501 and HB 5507

**To:** School districts and community stakeholders

**From:** Salam Noor, Deputy Superintendent

**RE:** Senate Bill 501 and House Bill 5507 (Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Grant)

**Summary: Provides information about upcoming grants available for the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden program.**

**Background:**

The Oregon legislature provided an additional \$3.3 million for the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden program, adding to the \$1.2 million that was previously approved. This brings the total to \$4.5 million for Farm to School and School Garden programs for the 2015-17 biennium, making Oregon the first state to award Farm to School funds to ALL schools.

**Description of Grant Program:**

Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden Program provides funding for school districts to purchase and serve locally produced or processed foods and to fund food-based, agriculture-based, and garden-based educational activities. The intent of this grant program is to provide funding for both components.

The final total budget for the allocation of this award is set at approximately \$4,500,000 for the 2015-17 biennium. The funds are distributed via grants managed by the Oregon Department of Education in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Funds for purchasing foods produced or processed in Oregon (approximately \$3.6 million) will be awarded to school districts through a formula based non-competitive process. Grants for food-based, agriculture-based, and garden-based educational activities (approximately \$885,000) will be awarded to school districts, nonprofit organizations, or commodity commissions or councils through a competitive process.

Timeline for the non-competitive portion (Oregon Grown /processed food) of the grant:

DATE	WHAT
August 25, 2015 (1:30 pm-2:30pm)	Webinar/training for school districts (option 1)
August 28, 2015 (9:30am-10:30am)	Webinar/training for school districts (option 2)
August 31, 2015	Webinar posted on website
August 31, 2015	Process for school districts to opt-in/out of grant available
September 11, 2015	Deadline to opt in/out for school districts
September 14, 2015	Allocation calculation (all lunches SY 2014-15/grant amount)
September 15, 2015	Approval letter with final funding sent to school districts

Timeline for the competitive portion (educational programs) of the grant:

DATE	WHAT
August & September 2015	Rules committee convenes
October, 2015	Proposed rules presented to State Board of Education
Oct. 15-Dec. 10, 2015	Rules open for public comment
Dec. 10, 2015	State Board of Ed. rules adopted
Dec., 2015	Request for application for grant released
Feb., 2016	Grants awarded