



www.foodcorps.org

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What is Farm to School?

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Procurement of local food by schools

School Gardens

Garden and food-based nutrition education

History of Farm to School



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Some things don't change...

- We're still at war
- We still have a desperate need for fresh, healthy food in our communities

Some things do...

- Childhood obesity and diet-related disease rates are shockingly, unacceptably high
- The 3 biggest domestic challenges facing our country are (arguably) Health, Economy, and the Environment

1911

2011



FoodCorps' Two Goals...

1. Reverse the trend of childhood obesity by providing human resources to increase the health of the school environment.
2. Invest in the next generation of food system leaders by providing hands-on experience, training, and mentorship.

FoodCorps in 2011

- Every month, our open conference calls draw over 100 participants and our email list has over 15,000 subscribers.
- In seeking our 10 states partners, we received 108 letters of inquiry from organizations in 39 states.
- For 50 positions, we received 1229 applications.

The interest is real! And so is the need!

Two Beliefs...

1. Farm to School and School Garden programs provide natural entry points for diverse groups. We invited them to the table.
2. Public opinion is on our side! It's hard to not convince people to support solutions to childhood obesity and diet-related disease if you can sell it to them in their language. We leveraged that.

CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY OF HEALTH OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS
HIGHLIGHTS ON HB 2800 (\$23 MILLION)

LEGEND

| | |
|------|---|
| ▲▲▲▲ | Strong impact on many |
| ▲▲▲ | Strong impact for few or small impact on many |
| ▲▲ | Moderate impact on medium number or strong impact on few |
| ▲ | Small impact on few |
| None | No effect |
| **** | 10+ strong studies |
| *** | 5-10 strong studies or data analysis |
| ** | 5 or more studies of weak and moderate quality; or studies have mixed results |
| * | <5 studies and claim consistent with public health principles |

1 Enrolled children in Oregon public school system, Oregon Department of Education, 2009-10.

2 Household Food Security in the United States, 2009, US Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2010.

3 Low estimate based on 2007 ODE survey of reported participation in school gardens; would be over two year grant time period.

4 Low estimate from 2010 Oregon Department of Education number of School Districts that purchase local.

5 Certified estimate of Oregon population from US Census data, Population Research Center, 2010.

6 Conservative estimates from: (280,000 school lunches served in 2009-10 x \$30 for fruits and vegetables) x 9 to 180 school days.

+ Indicates schools will have to take action beyond the reimbursement program in the policy.

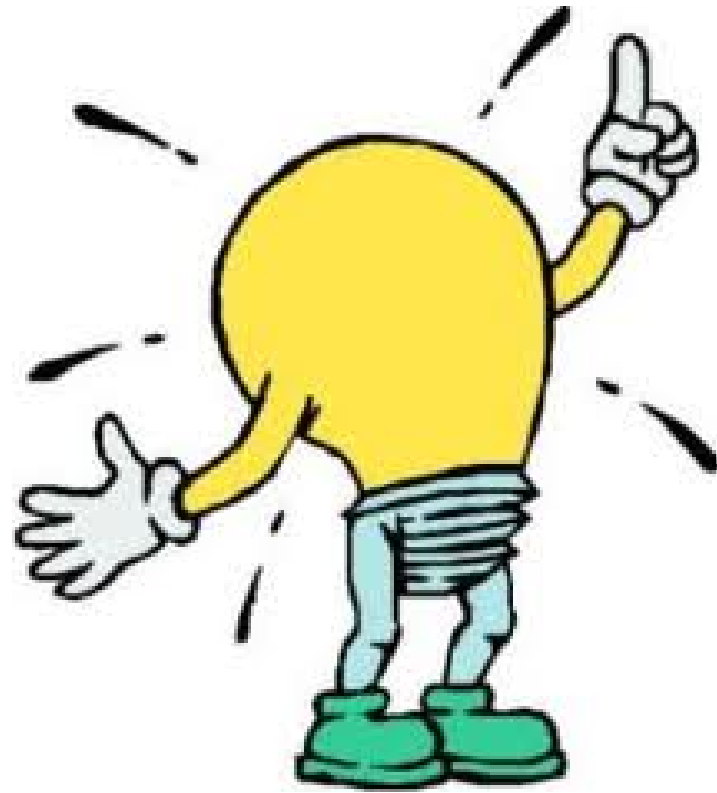
† See report for full summary table, including impacts without HIA policy recommendations.

| Health Outcome or Health Determinant | Magnitude of Impact w/ HIA Recs. | Distribution | Quality of Evidence |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Employment Impacts | | | |
| Health & life expectancy | ▲▲▲▲ | Farm sector and related jobs | **** |
| Job creation | ▲▲▲ | ~270 new jobs | **** |
| Oregon product demand | ▲▲▲▲ | 100—197 School Districts ⁴ | **** |
| Workers' ability to pay bills | ▲▲▲ | ~270 new jobs | **** |
| Economic activity | ▲▲▲▲ | 3.16 economic multiplier | **** |
| Impacts on Child Diet and Nutrition | | | |
| Meal program participation | ▲▲▲ | 561,698 public school children ¹ | ** |
| Child learning & academic attainment | ▲▲▲ | 561,698 public school children ¹ | **** |
| Household food security | ▲▲ | 210,446 households ² | +++ |
| School meal nutrition | ▲▲ ⁺ | 561,698 public school children ¹ | * |
| Child overweight & obesity | ▲▲ ⁺ | 1 in 4 children | ** |
| Farm to School and School Garden Education Impacts | | | |
| Gardening education | ▲▲▲▲ | ~15,000 new children ³ | **** |
| Child fruit & vegetable consumption | ▲▲▲ ⁺ | 561,698 school children ¹ | **** |
| Agriculture & nutrition education | ▲▲ ⁺ | ~15,000 new children ³ | *** |
| Child nutrition knowledge | ▲▲ ⁺ | ~15,000 new children ³ | *** |
| Nutrition staff knowledge | ▲▲ | 100—197 School Districts | ** |
| Child achievement | ▲▲ | ~15,000 new children ³ | * |
| Child self-efficacy | ▲▲ | ~15,000 new children ³ | * |
| Child physical activity | ▲▲ | ~15,000 new children ³ | * |
| Impacts on Environmental Health | | | |
| Oregon fruit & vegetable crops maintained | ▲▲ | \$756,000 — \$15,120,000 in school purchases ⁶ | +++ |
| Demand for food grown with sustainable practices | ▲ | Oregon food sectors | * |
| Greenhouse gas emissions from food transport | None | 3,844,195 Oregonians ⁵ | ** |
| Impacts on Social Capital | | | |
| Student relationships | ▲▲ | ~15,000 new children ³ | * |
| Producer, processor & school staff connections | ▲▲▲ | ~100 School Districts | +++ |
| Parent school participation | ▲▲ | ~15,000 new children ³ | * |

One Solution...

FoodCorps deploys a straight-forward solution that everyone can understand and that has multiple, cross-discipline benefits

We run an AmeriCorps program that helps kids have better access to healthy food and helps young leaders gain professional experience through public service.



Strategies for Stakeholder Engagement

- We avoided silos – invited people to participate meaningfully in our process.
- Knew our audience – we sold our program to who we were talking to, not to ourselves and we learned how to speak their language.
- We searched for the kernels of clarity at the center of our work and found a way to build our programs around them – A Ha! Moments



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