



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon



Scientific surveys find pesticides in our water and food as well as in our homes, schools and parks. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies reduce exposure to potentially harmful chemicals by employing cost-effective pest management alternatives.

SB 637 Improves Student Health and Achievement With Cost-Effective Pest Management Policies For Schools

Senate Bill 637 will help create healthier schools by:

- Requiring that public and private Oregon day-cares, K-12 schools, and community colleges adopt IPM policies.
- Standardizing the requirements of an integrated pest management plan so that all schools implement IPM with the same simple steps.

Chemicals used to kill pests can be harmful to children

According to the best science available, children's health is at risk from insecticides used to kill ants, roaches and other pests. Some common pesticides are nerve poisons that can cause learning disabilities and neurological disorders; others disrupt hormones and lead to reproductive problems later in life. Pesticide residue can trigger asthma attacks in children, exacerbating the number one cause of school absenteeism.

Children are especially vulnerable

Pound for pound, children eat and drink more food and water than adults, ingesting more of the pesticides present in those materials. Children are also more vulnerable to pesticides during fragile developmental periods in which chemicals can easily disrupt the growth and development of organ systems.

Why use pesticides when there are no pests?

Over 80 percent of schools in America apply pesticides in a pre-scheduled routine, regardless of whether pests exist, say experts at Indiana University. These sprayings can be excessive in volume and frequency, creating undue exposure to students and school workers.

A Common Sense Approach

IPM relies on custodians, teachers and students to manage pests by emptying trash cans daily, keeping floors clean, storing food in sealed containers and minimizing pest entry points. Put simply, IPM is a safer and often less costly option for effective pest management in schools. A school IPM program uses common sense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in school buildings and grounds. Experts say that schools that use IPM plans can reduce pesticide use by 70 percent.

A Realistic Approach

IPM encourages non-chemical approaches such as installing door sweeps, using steel wool to plug holes, and setting live traps for mice. It also allows for the use of least-toxic chemicals in ways that minimize exposure.

A Proven Approach Nationwide

Many states and school districts have already adopted IPM programs that have proven to be effective and have generated cost savings. The Kyrene School District in Arizona reduced pesticide applications by 90 percent and kept pest populations below 85 percent of their original levels by using IPM. Monroe County, Indiana achieved a 92 percent reduction in pesticide use, enabling them to direct their cost savings to hire a district-wide coordinator to oversee pest management. At Vista de las Cruces School in Santa Barbara California, pest management costs went from \$1,740 a year to \$270 (plus labor) for two years.

Top National Organizations Endorse IPM

The American Public Health Association, National Association of School Nurses and National Parent Teacher Association all endorse IPM. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that schools use integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children. Adopting IPM across Oregon schools will protect our children from harmful and unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals. All children deserve to spend their long days at school in a healthy and productive learning environment.

Supporters of SB 637

Activistas
AFT-Oregon
American Lung Association in Oregon
Children First for Oregon
Healthy Kids Learn Better Coalition
Metro
Nurse Practitioners of Oregon
Oregon Center for Environmental Health
Oregon Education Association (OEA)

Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Nurses Association
Oregon Public Health Association
Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)
Oregon Toxics Alliance
Physicians for Social Responsibility, OR
Project: Children
SEIU-Local 503
Urban Mommas



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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