



Fall 2013

Re: Pesticide Use at Schools

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

Maintaining a healthy and safe environment for our students, staff and community is very important to our District. As part of our commitment to the environment, the School Board adopted a policy on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to minimize the use of pesticides for such things as insects and weeds. You may view the policy and procedures at:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/policies/h/H12.00.pdf> and
<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/policies/h/H12.01.pdf>

IPM emphasizes prevention and common sense strategies rather than responding to a pest crisis with pesticides, whenever possible. Through IPM, we focus on non-chemical controls such as good housekeeping in each classroom, the acceptance of weeds in lawns, and students' and volunteers' assistance to remove invasive plants and weeds in the landscape and school gardens.

Our School Board policy, consistent with State regulations, requires posted notification 48 hours prior to application of a pesticide. In the event that a pesticide is deemed necessary, we will make every effort to apply the pesticide during a weekend or a student break. If students and/or staff will be present in the building within 48 hours of planned pesticide application, a letter will be distributed to all students' families and to staff beforehand. Occasionally, an emergency application is necessary, such as for stinging insects. In that case, posting will occur simultaneously and a letter sent out immediately.

If you are interested in being involved with the District's IPM Committee, please contact Bruce Skowyra at 252-0609 / brskowyra@seattleschools.org.

We welcome your ideas for an IPM project to reduce the use of pesticides at your school. Please talk to your principal to see how you can get involved.

Respectfully,

Superintendent