

November 15, 2004
Board of Education
Orange County Schools

Dear Board Members,

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Board of Education for supporting Orange County staff's initiatives to reduce the use of pesticides and to adopt IPM (Integrated Pest Management) for pest control in school buildings and grounds. We commend you for your forward thinking recognition that the use of pesticides within the schools puts the health and safety of students and staff at risk.

School age children spend a significant portion of their waking hours attending school and therefore it is important that the school environment be a least-toxic one. It is important to us that an IPM program become an institutionalized part of our school district's policy, so that as the staff and board evolve in the future, pest control in our district will not regress to more toxic methods. Therefore, we respectfully request that the OCS Board of Education continue in their forward thinking and adopt a policy that includes the following:

- 1) A definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a way to prevent and control pest problems in school buildings and grounds while reducing or eliminating the use of hazardous pesticides.
- 2) An explanation of the goals of the IPM program: to minimize the risk of student, staff and environmental exposure to pesticides, and to manage pest populations in a manner that is most cost effective and best supports the district's goals for sanitary schools with well maintained structures, good indoor air quality, and safe and attractive grounds.
- 3) Steps OCS will take to ensure that IPM is successful:
 - * Train staff members about IPM and their roles in a successful pest management program, as appropriate.
 - * Establish a program of regular pest monitoring and inspections, sanitary improvements, structural repairs, and other non-chemical steps for pest prevention.
 - * Use pesticides only as a last resort to deal with actual pest infestations, and in those cases give preference to lowest- toxicity pesticide formulations and the most targeted application methods, such as baits and gel formulations.
 - * In the event that a pest infestation requires the use of a pesticide, provide notification and information to school staff and parents, in writing, two business days prior to the application, with the exception of least- hazardous products such as anti-microbial agents or products designated by the US EPA as "low-risk" or "no-risk" formulations.
 - * Amend any contract bids for pest control services to require the use of IPM as defined above.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and for your dedicated service to this school system and this community. We look forward to your response. We will follow up within two weeks to learn more about your course of action.

Sincerely,

| Name | Address | Phone or Email | OCS affiliation |
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