

**A PETITION TO ADOPT AN INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) POLICY AT
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Whereas all pesticides are poisons, and the risks of pesticides are not yet fully understood, especially in combination with other environmental exposures, and as they relate to children, people with asthma and allergies, and other vulnerable populations;

Whereas scientific research indicates that children can be more sensitive to toxic substances in their environments as their bodies are growing and developing;

Whereas the current state of pest control technology is such that effective suppression of pest populations can be achieved without regularly scheduled pesticide use or the broadcast application of pesticides to open surfaces;

Whereas several North Carolina school districts, and hundreds more around the country, have drastically reduced their use of pesticides and incidence of pest infestations by adopting IPM programs;

Whereas the vision of Durham Public Schools (DPS) is that “the learning environment must be clean, safe, orderly, attractive, and provide a nurturing atmosphere” for learning and for working (*Ref: Board Policy # 1005.1*); and

Whereas all affected members of a school community – including teachers, other staff, students, and parents – have the right to know about potential sources of exposure to toxics in their school, where they spend so much of their time;

We the undersigned respectfully request that the Board of Education of the City and County of Durham adopt a policy requiring the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on all buildings and grounds of Durham Public Schools in order to reduce the use of pesticides and improve school pest control and environmental quality.

Name	Address	Affiliation with Durham Public Schools	Yes, keep me posted. (Please include phone number and/or email address.)