



TOXIC FREE SCHOOLS SB 426

PART OF A THREE BILL SUITE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BILLS

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BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 637 on School Integrated Pest Management. More than a decade later, the bill is in need of modernization in order to help schools protect students' health.

The Toxic Free Schools Act will . . .

- Provide resources and technical assistance to school districts to reduce harmful pesticide use.
- Require a diverse Stakeholder Advisory Committee to help guide school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) planning.
- Modernize pesticide recordkeeping processes and increase transparency for school communities.
- Provide equitable pest management support for schools.

**This bill
prioritizes
environmental
health and
toxic free
learning
environments.**

SB 426 is a 2023 OCN Priority for the Environment bill



CHILDREN'S HEALTH

How does this bill protect children's health? Children are at higher risk for health effects from exposure to pesticides than adults because their internal organs are still developing and maturing. This bill will help reduce children's exposure at school.

What's the big take-away? Toxic Free Schools will give the Department of Education resources to support school districts to adopt a "prevention-first" method of pest control practices to prevent children's exposures to pesticides on athletic fields, playgrounds and in cafeterias and learning spaces.

SAFE SCHOOLS

What is the problem? Oregon school districts and regulatory agencies currently lack coordination and resources to implement safer pesticide use practices. As a result, unintentional yet illegal pesticide uses are occurring at Oregon schools.

Who is impacted? Currently, school children, faculty, and staff may be harmed from regular exposure to pesticides in schools.

How will Toxic Free Schools help? Toxic Free Schools will modernize outdated policies and support coordination between the Department of Education, school districts and facility managers to implement effective and the safest pest management methods.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & EQUITY

How is this an environmental justice concern? People in historically disadvantaged communities already bear the brunt of increased exposures to harmful chemicals. Students who attend schools in these neighborhoods are routinely exposed to air, water and soil toxins and may have more underlying health conditions than students in higher-income areas.

How does this bill address equity? Not all schools have resources to implement their IPM plans. This bill will help direct technology resources and training to schools serving low-income communities first.

How will Toxic Free Schools help? This bill helps eliminate equity barriers by improving transparency around pesticides on school grounds.

SUPPORT COALITION

