



TOXIC FREE SCHOOLS: HB 2684

PROTECT STUDENTS FROM PESTICIDE EXPOSURES IN SCHOOLS

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed the School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Act. More than 16 years later School IPM law is in need of modernization to improve transparency and provide clarity about school gardens on school campuses.

- Nearly half of Oregon’s school districts have not updated their School IPM plan in over 5 years and over 10% do not have IPM plans available on school district websites.
- Many school districts have not updated their Low Impact Pesticide list in over 5 years to ensure compliance with state and federal pesticide law.
- School District IPM Plans do not include a plan for pest monitoring and prevention practices in school garden spaces.

CHILDREN’S HEALTH & SAFETY

Children are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of pesticides than adults because their bodies are still developing. Children are more likely to be exposed due to common behaviors like playing on grass, putting their hands in their mouths, and even chewing on plants like dandelions.

What's the big take-away? This bill will help improve children’s health by ensuring that school districts, IPM coordinators, and school garden managers clearly understand and follow safety guidelines for pesticide use as required in ORS 634.750

SCHOOL GARDENS

What is the problem? School gardens play a key role in teaching kids about sustainability and food growing. Currently the Department of Education provides an IPM guidance document for school garden managers, but there is no policy requiring school gardens to be included in IPM plans.

Toxic Free Schools aims to close this policy gap by adding school gardens to the definition of school campus.

HB 2684 WILL PROTECT CHILDREN BY:

- Requiring school district governing bodies to review and update school **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans** every 5 years.
- Requiring **low-impact pesticide list** be reviewed and updated every 5 years by each school district’s governing body.
- Requiring School IPM plans be available on school district websites to ensure plans are **transparent and accessible**.
- Adding **school gardens** to the definition of campuses.

CHIEF SPONSOR

Rep. Zach Hudson

CO-SPONSORS

Reps. Gamba & Nosse

SUPPORT HB 2684 TO PROTECT CHILDREN’S HEALTH

