

## School Pest Management Evaluation

This evaluation will help you in learning about the pest management program at your school district, especially what pesticides are being used.

The best person to contact to help you answer these questions is most likely the director of maintenance for the school district, although other options would be the director of facilities or the maintenance lead. The questions below are meant to guide you in a conversation, and make sure to get all of the information you need to gain a more complete understanding of the district's pest management program and pesticide use.

Once you have this information, we'd be happy to help you find out more about the pesticides being used, identify non-toxic and least-toxic options that may be available for your district's particular pest problems, and help with getting a policy in place to ensure best practices. Good luck!

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** The term "pesticide" refers to all products used to kill or repel any type of pest, and therefore includes herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, moss killers, and many other products. Asking about pesticide use may be interpreted as just referring to insecticides, so it is worthwhile to clarify that you are interested in hearing about use of all of these types of products.*

### **1. What pesticides are used by the school district?**

Ask for the list of products used and quantities applied, or a copy of the annual pesticide use report with this information that is required under state law. The information should include: product name (name on the label), active ingredients (chemical names), EPA registration number (ID number given each product by the EPA), and amount used. Make sure that the list of products you have includes those applied by any contractors.

### **2. Does the district contract with a Pest Control Operator or other outside entity for indoor or outdoor applications?**

Yes (name of company: \_\_\_\_\_)                      No

### **3. What are the major pest problems in the district?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **4. Are pesticides applied on a regular basis or in response to pest problems?**

Regular basis \_\_\_ How often? \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. weekly, monthly)  
As Needed \_\_\_

**5. Are pesticides applied when children are at school?** Yes No  
If not, when are they applied? After school\_\_\_\_ Weekends\_\_\_\_ Holidays\_\_\_\_

**6. Who is notified of pesticide applications?**  
All Parents \_\_\_\_\_ Some Parents (who?) \_\_\_\_\_  
Teachers and Staff\_\_\_\_\_ Students\_\_\_\_\_ Community\_\_\_\_\_

**7. How are they notified?**  
Bulletin board posting\_\_\_\_ Letter home to parents\_\_\_\_ Teachers are told\_\_\_\_  
Students are told\_\_\_\_ Signs posted \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**8. When are they notified?**  
Before application occurs \_\_\_\_\_ How long before? \_\_\_\_\_  
After application occurs \_\_\_\_\_ How long after? \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Describe any non-chemical methods used to reduce pest problems.**  
(Examples: emptying waste baskets more frequently, keeping food refrigerated and/or in tightly sealed containers, placing screens on windows, keeping external doors shut when not in use, installing door sweeps on external doors, turf health, use of native plants, etc.)

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**9. Does the school district have a policy relating to pesticide use or pest management in the district?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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**So, what does all of this mean?**

You can find out about the toxicity of pesticides being used in your district by calling the Washington Toxics Coalition and also by checking out the following websites: [www.pesticideinfo.org](http://www.pesticideinfo.org) and [www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)

If your district uses pesticides and/or doesn't have a pest management policy, we can help! A growing number of districts in Washington and around the country are adopting policies to eliminate their use of high hazard pesticides – those that threaten our health or the environment – and use least-toxic approaches instead. You can find information on-line at [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org), and can contact Healthy Schools Organizer Angela Storey at 206-632-1545 ext. 11 or [astorey@watoxics.org](mailto:astorey@watoxics.org).