



January 5, 2023

Dear Parents, Teachers, and School Stakeholders,

**We want to bring an urgent situation to your attention:**

The pest management policy that has been protecting our children at LA Unified School District sites from toxic pesticides that can pose serious health issues is *no longer functioning* as it has since 1999.

A key part of the policy is an independent 15-member Oversight Committee that ensures pest issues are being addressed *safely* and with *approved products* when needed. The Committee is comprised of parents, community members, teachers, a physician, scientist, and a public health representative. The policy is the most protective in the nation, based on prevention through the Precautionary Principle, and required notification and posting prior to pesticide application under the California Healthy Schools Act.

- The 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSAs have supported the [policy](http://calisafe.org/policy.html) since its inception. <http://calisafe.org/policy.html>
- The California State PTA also supports the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). See their position statement [here](http://toolkit.capta.org/advocacy/position-statements/environmental-health-and-environmental-education/). <http://toolkit.capta.org/advocacy/position-statements/environmental-health-and-environmental-education/>

We have become aware of the following violations of the policy and the state's Healthy Schools Act by LA Unified's Maintenance and Operations: a **dangerous agricultural pesticide** was used at multiple school sites, **required notifications prior to applications were not sent to parents nor posted**, and **numerous investigations of rodent infestations** were conducted by LA County Public Health Vector Division.

Instead of addressing these issues that endanger children, the District is in the process of dismantling the Oversight Committee and rewriting the policy. See more [here](https://www.send2press.com/wire/la-unified-appears-poised-to-weaken-public-oversight-again-this-time-on-a-crucial-public-health-issue/). <https://www.send2press.com/wire/la-unified-appears-poised-to-weaken-public-oversight-again-this-time-on-a-crucial-public-health-issue/>



We are requesting that you take this simple but important action today. Please contact your school board member (see below) by phone or email with this request:

**There should be no alterations to the IPM Policy or the Oversight Committee to ensure its continued implementation as intended and its proven record of prioritizing and protecting the health and well-being of children and all school stakeholders.**

***Your school board members needs to hear from you now, so that children, teachers and staff at your child's school will not continue to be at risk from exposure to toxic pesticides.***

#### Integrated Pest Management Policy

The District's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy was unanimously adopted in 1999 in response to parental concerns about pesticide use in the District. The success of the policy in protecting all school stakeholders, led to California Legislation: The Healthy Schools Act and AB405 (Montanez) which prohibit experimental pesticides from being used on all California campuses.

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