

Submitter: Stephanie Tabibian
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 426.

I am the mother of a special needs child attending school at Two Rivers Elementary School in the Springfield School District.

As a parent, I believe it is also my right to know what my child may have been exposed to within their school settings. At the very least, we need a more organized and accessible way of getting information to families regarding school IPM. I have NEVER received messaging about the timing and nature of chemicals used on school grounds, nor was I given the opportunity to "Opt - In" to receive notifications. Advance notification is critical as not all students can read warning signs should a pesticide be used in schools. My son is an autistic kindergartener and has tendencies to elope (abruptly remove himself) from stressful situations without regard for his own safety. A warning sign would probably not be a barrier in this instance as my son can't read.

Families are frequently using school grounds outside of official school hours for sports practice and general play and should know when to avoid them. The reason these basic prevention practices have not been implemented in a uniform way by schools is because we've never provided them with the funding or support to do so.

I support providing more resources for school districts to follow school pest management mandates and the formation of a diverse stakeholder group convened by ODE that INCLUDES educational institutions' seat at the table. It is critical to involve those of us in the educational field in planning and developing best management practices.

Please support this bill to improve equity, transparency and safety in Oregon Schools.