



Salt Lake City
School District

Our Students, Our Future

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News Release

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Salt Lake City School District Recognized by the EPA for Reducing Risks from Pests and Pesticides.

(Salt Lake City) - Superintendent McKell Withers and Salt Lake City School District have been presented with an Award of Recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency for implementing a pest management program that reduces pests and the use of pesticides. This award is the first presented in the Rocky Mountain Region (U.S. EPA Region 8).

The traditional practice of controlling pests in public schools by scheduled, monthly treatments of chemical pesticides is not cost effective and can expose children or other school inhabitants to dangerous toxins and pests. Using a proven risk reduction model for pests and pesticides, the Salt Lake City School District, with assistance from The Utah Department of Agriculture & Food and the U.S. EPA, has reduced exposure of dangerous pesticides and pests in participating schools. The goal is to increase the school community's environmental health protection with Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The pest management program the school district now uses is the "Monroe IPM Model". Originally developed in Monroe County, Indiana, this approach has been successfully implemented in Arizona, Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Washington. The district began using IPM just over a year ago and has demonstrated approximately **90% reduction in pesticide use and over a 50% decrease in pests complaints**, without significantly increasing staff workload or district expense.

The pest management program is successful because the ways used to reduce pests and the strategies to keep them from entering schools can be incorporated into the existing custodial and maintenance activities such as sanitation, energy conservation, building security and infrastructure maintenance. Teachers and custodial staff share the responsibility for recognizing potential problem areas, working closely with the district's pest management professionals so as to prevent infestations from developing.

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Salt Lake City School District provides IPM education through training, demonstrating technological and program planning innovations, developing and disseminating outreach materials, conducting audits of pesticide use and pest management costs, and by outlining a tangible progress for the mitigation of risk to the school community.

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