

Good Riddance RoundUp: Letter to Decision Maker from a Parent

Dear Decision Maker,

I am writing regarding my concerns about the use of the pesticide RoundUp in our school district.

As a decision maker, it is imperative that you become aware of the growing body of evidence showing that exposure to glyphosate, the main ingredient in RoundUp, has been linked to negative health effects across age groups, even at low levels.

Children are especially sensitive to exposure—they take in more pesticides relative to their size and weight, are more physical in their environments, and are still undergoing both mental and physical developmental stages. Glyphosate exposure in children can lead to cancer, poor motor skills, poor memory, and asthma. Nationally, children ages 6-11 years are found to have higher levels of glyphosate residue in their bodies than any other group of people.

Pesticides and herbicides are designed to be toxic. The suffix 'cide' is derived from Latin: it means 'to kill'. RoundUp is the most widely used herbicide in the country, and glyphosate can be found in over 750 products sold within the United States.

Our students, teachers, and school staff's health are at risk as long as RoundUp is still being used in our schools. You can play a key role in protecting one of our most vulnerable populations: our children. We should not be exposing our children to anything that has the potential to harm them, especially in the environments in which they live and learn. The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that "children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."

Many organic alternatives to using toxic pesticides exist and could be used in our schools. Municipalities, schools and universities all over the United States are restricting the use of toxic pesticides to protect public health and the environment. In the interest of our children's health and preventative action, I am calling on Pittsburgh Public Schools to take action and end the use of RoundUp on schoolgrounds.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Parent