

MEMO

March, 2026

To: Springfield School District
From: Springfield HS Environmental Club
Re: Reducing single-use plastic waste in purchasing

Dear Administrators,

As the world becomes more deeply mired in plastic pollution, and as micro- and nanoplastics threaten the health of people and all living things around the world, it is incumbent on everyone to reduce their use of plastic wherever possible.

We are aware that our school system purchases a wide range of products and supplies during the year. Many of those products and supplies come packed in plastic, including foam peanuts, foam sheets, PVC plastic wrapping, bubble wrap, etc. All of this plastic material degrades into smaller and smaller pieces with the elements, ending up in landfills or in our drinking water, or released along with its toxic chemicals into the air we breathe. Every human being on the Earth now has detectable plastic in their bodies.

We respectfully ask that the Springfield School District use every effort to discourage suppliers and vendors to our schools from using plastic packing materials in the products they sell. This includes clearly stating a preference for non-plastic packing materials in all RFQs, purchase orders and service contracts, such as:

"Preference will be given to vendors who ship products and materials in non-plastic packing materials."

We are enclosing a draft of a note to vendors, explaining more about the plastic pollution crisis and why this effort will benefit everyone, especially those of us who will be burdened with the environmental and human health impacts of plastic pollution for our entire lifetimes.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this important issue.

Thank you.

(signed)