

DRAFT MEMO TO VENDORS

To vendors supplying the Springfield School District:

We have been approached by one of our student organizations to help address the worldwide plastic pollution crisis by requesting that all shipments of products and materials to our district be packed, to the extent possible, in non-plastic packing materials. This includes plastic Styrofoam (polystyrene) peanuts and foam sheets, bubble wrap, plastic bags, plastic air pillows, PVC shrink wrap, etc.

Plastic packaging and packing materials make up almost 40% of our solid waste problem, and we now have evidence-based science that plastic has created a planetary crisis and is not an easily recyclable material. Recently, the California Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the Exxon Corporation, claiming that the company has misled the public about the recyclability of plastic. In simple terms, it can't be done without creating toxic emissions and waste. The resulting "recycled material" would need to be combined with virgin plastic to create a "recycled plastic product."

Pieces of plastic are now prevalent in our air, our water and our food supply, and microscopic pieces of plastic are being found in all parts of the human body, including our brains and other critical organs – even the bodies of newborn babies. As plastic is a combination of fossil fuels and chemicals, many of which are toxic to humans, the health implications of this situation are not fully understood yet but deeply concerning, especially for our students who will have to live in a world filled with plastic pollution.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to keeping our world safe for our children and future generations.