

Pests are significant problems for people and property. The pesticides that are commonly used in pest control may pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. The board is committed to maintaining a safe educational environment while also protecting the physical conditions of school facilities. To this end, the board will utilize its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to prevent and control pest problems on school system property and minimize pesticide use. The superintendent will appoint an IPM coordinator to facilitate the use of IPM techniques.

A. OVERVIEW OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

IPM is a comprehensive approach that combines effective, economic, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable methods to prevent and solve pest problems. IPM emphasizes pest prevention and provides a decision-making process for determining if, when, and where pest suppression is needed and what control tactics are appropriate.

Through its IPM program, the school system will strive to do the following:

1. minimize any potential health, environmental, and economic risks from pests or from the use of pest control methods;
2. minimize loss or damage to school structures or property from pests or from the use of pest control methods;
3. minimize the risk of pests spreading into the community; and
4. enhance the quality of facility use for the school and community.

The IPM program will utilize strategies including, but not limited to, staff training, monitoring and inspection of facilities, communication and notification to staff and parents, and the use of pesticides as a last resort. When a decision is made to use pesticides, the least toxic pesticide formulation and the most targeted application method possible will be utilized.

Pesticide use will not be based *solely* on a schedule. School personnel in charge of pest management will consider how and when pesticides need to be used to achieve the pest management goals.

B. USE OF IPM IN FACILITY AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

The school system shall include pest management considerations in facilities planning and maintenance. The IPM coordinator, in conjunction with the school system's contracted pest management professional, will recommend to the superintendent any landscaping changes, structural modifications, and sanitation changes needed to reduce or prevent pest problems.

The superintendent or designee will review such recommendations and may authorize action to address necessary minor changes in a timely manner, as the budget permits. For significant changes or changes that require a significant expenditure of funds, the superintendent will recommend changes to the board for approval.

C. PROVIDING INFORMATION ON IPM TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Staff, students, pest managers, parents, and the public will be informed about potential school pest problems, school IPM policies and procedures, and their respective roles in achieving the desired pest management objectives. Each year, the principal or designee will ensure that the student handbook includes the schedule of anticipated pesticide use on school property and a notice to parents, guardians, and custodians of their right to request notification of nonscheduled pesticide use. Additionally, the principal or designee shall annually notify school staff of scheduled pesticide use on school property and of their right to request notice of nonscheduled pesticide use. Notice of nonscheduled pesticide use should be made at least 72 hours in advance of such use, to the extent possible. If a pest emergency requires immediate action, every effort will be made to provide notification to school staff and parents or guardians in a timely manner.

The notification requirements do not apply to the application of the following types of pesticide products: antimicrobial cleansers, disinfectants, self-contained baits and crack-and-crevice treatments, and any pesticide products classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as belonging to the U.S.E.P.A. Toxicity Class IV, “relatively nontoxic” (i.e., no signal word required on the product's label).

D. RECORDKEEPING

Records of all pest management activities must be maintained, including inspection records, monitoring records, pest surveillance data sheets, or other indicators of pest populations, and records of structural repairs and modifications. If pesticides are used, records must be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and school board.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(34)d and e, -36, -47(47)

Cross References: School Safety (policy 1510/4200/7270), Planning to Address Facility Needs (policy 9000), Care and Maintenance of Facilities (policy 9200)

Adopted: May 2, 2016