

# ***Integrated Pest Management for Iowa Schools***



## **Sample IPM Policy Statement**

### **Policy**

It is the policy of the (insert name here) school district to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures to control structural and landscape pests and minimize exposure of children, faculty, and staff to pesticides.

### **Pests**

It is the policy of this school district to control pests in the school environment. Pests are living organisms (animals, plants or microorganisms) that interfere with human uses for the school site. Pests such as cockroaches, fleas, ants, stinging wasps, termites, and rodents are annoying and can disrupt the learning environment in schools. Pests are known to bite, sting, transmit diseases, or cause allergic responses.

### **Pesticides**

It is the policy of this school district to ensure minimal or no exposure to pesticides in the school environment. A pesticide is defined as any chemical used to repel or kill a pest organism. Children may be more susceptible to pesticides than adults due to their smaller size and rapid development. Their behavior may also increase their risk of exposure to pesticide residues. When pesticides are used to control pests in schools, there is potential for exposure to children. Exposure may result in allergic responses for sensitive individuals or poisoning in extreme cases. Therefore, we intend to eliminate the use of broad application pesticides wherever possible.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

It is the policy of this school district to employ IPM techniques for pest situations on district property. IPM is a process for achieving long-term, environmentally sound pest suppression through the use of a variety of management practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, structural and procedural modifications that reduce pest access, food, moisture, and harborage within the school environment.

This school district will use non-chemical methods first as a means of pest prevention. These methods include sanitation, exclusion, and monitoring. The application of chemical control products will be used only “as needed” to correct verified problems. Only products that are the least hazardous and most effective for the control of the targeted pest will be used. Chemical control products will be placed in specific locations where they are available to pests, but not accessible to children, faculty or staff. A staff member has been designated to coordinate the IPM program and maintain pest management records; this person is the IPM Coordinator.

### **Pesticide Applicators**

It is the policy of this school district to contract or otherwise assign Integrated Pest Management duties to person(s) who are trained and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of IPM. The IPM Coordinator must approve any use of pesticides. Applicator(s) must follow federal and state regulations and label precautions.

### **Notification**

It is the policy of this school district to notify students, parents or guardians, and the school staff of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notice will be posted in prominent locations in the affected facility 24 hours prior to treatment and will remain for 24 hours following treatment. A 48-hour notice will be given to any parents, guardians or staff who have registered for pre-notification.

### **Recordkeeping**

It is the policy of this school district to maintain records of the IPM program. School staff, parents and students will have access to this information upon request. The records will include:

- The pest control Plan of Work for each contractor
- Copies of labels & Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for products used
- Initial and subsequent inspection forms and facility maps
- Records of pest sightings and actions taken
- Monitoring records
- Structural, procedural or sanitary modification work requests
- Records of pesticides used (product, amount used, treatment location, target pest, application method, and applicator)