

Colorado Coalition School IPM Policy Statement Template

Preface

A school integrated pest management (IPM) policy means a written pest control policy that is officially adopted by the school district that outlines how the school will strive to provide an optimum learning environment by eliminating or mitigating economic, health, and aesthetic damage caused by pests in and around schools. The policy statement should include pest management objectives and goals; a set of roles and responsibilities for occupants, pest management personnel, and key decision makers; and a set of pest management guidelines, including documentation. The policy is based on IPM principals and does not ban pesticide use. While IPM does not exclude the use of pesticides, it does encourage low toxicity pesticides since all pesticides pose some risk when used.

The comprehensive cultural shift needed for successful IPM implementation requires a period of transition. Districts may wish to include the following language somewhere in their policy to address this issue.

Transition Time

This District recognizes that the implementation of this policy will require a period of transition to integrated pest management strategies. The District will work to implement this policy in a way that ensures that personnel involved in integrated pest management have the time, technological assistance, resources, and support to make the transition both effectively and efficiently.

1. Introductory Statement

School District _____ recognizes that maintenance of a safe, clean and healthy, and pest free environment for students and staff is essential to learning. This policy is based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM does not exclude the use of pesticides, but it does encourage minimizing their use and using those that pose the least hazard. It is therefore the policy of this School District to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for the control of structural and landscape pests. It is the goal of this District to provide safe, effective, and economically feasible pest control while protecting students, staff, the environment, and District property.

2. Integrated Pest Management Objectives

Pest control using IPM requires an understanding of the pest's life cycle and habits. The IPM process uses this information, combined with regular monitoring, to determine if, when, and how to intervene for optimum pest control. IPM uses a number of different strategies, not just pesticides, to control a pest.

The goal of IPM is to provide long-term pest control while minimizing human exposure to toxins from pesticides and other compounds that may create health risk; therefore, emphasis is placed on preventing pests and on making the school environment inhospitable to them and safer for the occupants of the facilities.

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests, and whether to use cultural, physical, mechanical, or chemical means. Chemical controls are used only after all other alternatives are considered and found to be inadequate or not feasible to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

IPM Goals include the following:

- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and visitors to the school
- Reduce any potential human health hazard and protect against a significant threat to public safety
- Prevent loss or damage to district resources, structures, or property
- Prevent the spread of pests to the community

3. IPM Coordinator

The District will identify or designate a person to serve as the IPM Coordinator who will be responsible for implementing this IPM policy and any IPM Plans. In our District the IPM Coordinator will report to _____ . The Coordinator's principle responsibilities will include the following:

- Serving as the primary contact for pest control matters
- Overseeing district staff or contractors responsible for pest management
- Coordinating pest management decisions for the district
- Devising and overseeing a monitoring program
- Ensuring that written records of monitoring and control data and pest sightings by staff and students are maintained at each facility
- Identifying key pests and key management sites and devising IPM plans for these pests or sites.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of any strategy used for pest control
- Will evaluate the progress of the IPM program and report the progress to the School Board, on an annual or semi-annual basis.

4. Integrated Pest Management Key Components

4a. Building Inspections and Pest Prevention

District personnel or their contract agents will periodically inspect buildings and grounds to inventory conditions that could lead to pest problems. District personnel or their agents will also monitor key pest populations to determine if, and when, they should be managed. Records of inspection activities will be used to determine optimum times to control pests.

4b. Pest Identification

When pest problems are identified or reported; district personnel or their agents will make every effort to safely collect specimens for proper identification, while inspecting the impacted environment to gain a comprehensive understanding of the pest problem, including mitigating factors supporting the pest problem.

4c. Take Appropriate Action

Following correct identification of the pest, district personnel or their agents will review the comprehensive inspection report and select the IPM option that effectively addresses the pest problem. Monitoring will continue after action plans have been implemented in order to evaluate effectiveness.

4d. Record Keeping

Written records will be kept on the kind and number of pests or other indicators of pest populations both before and after any treatments. Records will document all IPM methods used and will be maintained to meet the requirements of federal, state and local regulations. Record storage process will be determined by the District. Records must be current and accurate if IPM is to work. The records may contain information such as:

- a. Date and time of inspection
- b. Pests found during inspection
- c. Pest control measures used
- d. When pesticides are applied include:
 - i. Brand name and active ingredient of pesticide(s) and rates applied;
 - ii. EPA registration number of pesticides(s);
 - iii. Areas treated;
 - iv. Name of applicator; and
 - v. Source for obtaining information on the pesticide label(s), material safety data sheet(s), and/or fact sheet(s) for end use concentrations.
- e. Post treatment follow-up

The objective is to create records from which programs and practices can be evaluated in order to improve the system and to eliminate ineffective and unnecessary treatments.

4. Integrated Pest Management Key Components continued:

4e. Education

District staff and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems, associated health risk and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives. Thorough IPM training will be made available to staff directly involved in pest management, food service, and in the maintenance of buildings and grounds.

5. Use of Pesticides

Whenever it is determined that a pesticide must be used, two conditions will be met: The problem pest will be specifically identified in order to select the most appropriate and least hazardous chemical that is effective. The application of such pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and other applicable state laws, district policies and procedures.

5a. Pesticide Applicators

Whenever pesticide applications are necessary, it will only be done by a properly trained and when necessary, Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) certified applicator. Applicators shall be trained in the principles and practices of IPM, and follow regulations and label directions. Unauthorized persons are prohibited from bringing and/or applying pesticides to district property.

5b. Notification

Notifications of parents and staff may be appropriate based on the situation.

5c. Pesticide Purchase, Storage, and Disposal

Pesticide purchases should follow the District's purchasing policy. Pesticides must be stored according to label directions and specifications. Unwanted pesticides must be disposed of in accordance with label directions.

5d. Pesticide Selection

Pesticide selection should be made after consultation with the IPM coordinator for the district. Reference section – For more information on pesticide selection, contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA).

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