



Model Least-Toxic IPM Policy

Prepared by the Washington Toxics Coalition

POLICY _____: Least-Toxic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Use Minimization

Because the health and safety of students and staff is our first priority, and a prerequisite to learning, the _____ School District manages vegetation and pests using a minimum of least-toxic pesticides. The district utilizes physical, mechanical, cultural, biological and educational tactics as primary controls. Least-toxic chemical controls are used as a last resort.

Pesticide Use and Selection

Pesticides will only be used if necessary for the health and safety of students and staff. No high-hazard pesticides will be used. To ensure that no high-hazard pesticides are used, any pesticide used by the school district must meet the following criteria:

- a. Pesticide is not classified as highly acutely toxic (Hazard Category I or II) by the Environmental Protection Agency (signal word for Hazard Category I products = DANGER; signal word for Hazard Category II products = WARNING);
- b. Pesticide is not a restricted use pesticide (use of the product is restricted to certified pesticide applicators);
- c. Ingredients in product have been evaluated by the U.S. EPA and found to include no possible, probable, known or likely carcinogens;
- d. Ingredients in product include no reproductive toxicants (CA Prop 65 list);
- e. Ingredients in product not listed by Illinois EPA as known, probable or suspected endocrine disruptors;
- f. Ingredients in product include no nervous system toxicants (i.e. ingredients that are cholinesterase inhibitors and/or are listed as neurotoxic by the Toxics Release Inventory);
- g. Ingredients have soil half-life of 30 days or less;
- h. Ingredients have extremely low or very low mobility in soil, according to Groundwater Ubiquity Score (GUS) index;
- i. Product is not labeled as toxic to fish, birds, bees, wildlife, or domestic animals.

No pesticide will be used if the school district does not have information on all pesticide ingredients.

No routinely scheduled (e.g. seasonal, monthly, or weekly) pesticide applications will be made. No pesticide fogging or space spraying will be done. Insecticides will be used only in containerized baits, or for spot treatments targeted to insect nests or problem areas where a minimal amount of material will be used. Pesticides will not be used solely for aesthetic purposes. Cost and staffing are not sufficient justification for use of a pesticide.

Notification and Timing

Pesticide notification signs shall be posted at the treatment site, at a prominent place in the main office, and at primary entrypoints to the site of application prior to any pesticide application. Signs shall remain in place for one week after pesticide application, or a longer period of time if specified by the pesticide label.

In addition, written notice shall be provided to students, parents, guardians and employees 48 hours in advance of any pesticide application.

Posted notices shall begin with a header containing the words "NOTICE: Pesticide Application; THIS AREA (or "LANDSCAPE" for outdoor applications) HAS BEEN RECENTLY SPRAYED OR TREATED WITH PESTICIDES BY YOUR SCHOOL."

Notices shall be at least 8-1/2 by 11 inches, and shall include the following information: the signal word from the pesticide label, alongside the product name (e.g. "DANGER: Confront"); the pesticide's active ingredient; the intended date and time of application; the location and area to which the pesticide is to be applied; the rate of application; the pest to be controlled; the name and phone number of the responsible party where the pesticide label and material safety data sheets may be obtained; a footer including "FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL" and name and phone number of the contact person for the application; and a boxed-off warning stating: "CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide exposure."

Notification signs shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background.

Healthy Schools Campaign

Pesticide Action Kit

Any pesticide application will be timed for maximum protection of human health and beneficial organisms. Any pest control activities will be conducted in consideration of effects on classroom activities.

Recordkeeping

The school district will maintain records of all pesticides used and their active ingredients, amounts and locations of treatments, and target pests. Alternative pest control measures will also be documented. Pesticide use and pest control records, pesticide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), pesticide product labels, and manufacturer information about all pesticide ingredients will be on file at each school as well as at school district headquarters.

School staff, parents and students will have access to all records upon request, including an annual summary of pesticide use records for each school and for the district as a whole.

Pest Management Committee

Any proposals for pesticide use must be approved by a Pest Management Committee or other committee consisting of parents, staff, and community members.

The Pest Management Committee will be responsible for the progress review described below, and carry out other activities as needed to oversee the implementation of the least-toxic IPM policy.

Progress Review

At the beginning of each school year, the district will provide written information to staff, students, and parents regarding pest control activities within the school district. This information will include the names of all compounds that may be used, and a description of the district's pest control policies and methods, including all posting and notification policies.

The district will annually review its pest management program to evaluate how well its pest prevention and control objectives are being met, and to identify areas where improvement is needed. The district will prepare a report containing the following information:

- a. Quantities of each pesticide applied during the previous year;
- b. Target pest for each pesticide used;
- c. Non-chemical pest prevention and control measures used;
- d. Pest management plan for the coming year.

The report will be provided to members of the school board of directors, all district parents, and made available to the public upon request.

Note: These reporting specifications satisfy the annual notification and reporting requirements of the Children's Pesticide Right-to-Know Act (SB 5533), including the required annual summary of pesticide use, and the required notice of pest control policies and methods.

Right to Appeal

Parents, staff, and neighbors may appeal pesticide use plans to the Pest Management Committee. Notification of this right will be provided at the beginning of the school year, as well as with any additional notification of a particular planned use of pesticides during the school year. The Pest Management Committee will consider all appeals received up to three days prior to the planned pesticide application. Appeals received within three days prior to the application will be considered by the superintendent.

Identification and Notification of Sensitive Individuals

The district will maintain a registry of chemically-sensitive students, staff, or others requesting special consideration in the event of the use of pesticides. The district will provide personal notification to these individuals two weeks prior to any planned pesticide use, and will make an effort to address their concerns and special needs relative to such pesticide applications.

For more information on school pest control that protects children's health, contact the Washington Toxics Coalition at (206) 632-1545 or info@watoxics.org