

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The New Hanover County Schools supports clean and safe facilities for its staff, students and the public. To that end, the school system shall use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to prevent and control pest problems in school buildings and grounds and minimize pesticide use. The IPM Program means a comprehensive approach to pest management that combines biological, physical, chemical and cultural tactics as well as effective, economic, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable methods to prevent and solve pest problems. The program emphasizes pest prevention and provides a decision-making process for determining if, when, and where pest suppression is needed and what control tactics and methods are appropriate.

The Integrated Pest Management Program shall utilize strategies including, but not limited to: training of staff; monitoring and inspecting 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 staff shall utilize the least toxic pesticide formulation and most targeted application method possible.

Principals shall annually notify students' parents, guardians and custodians as well as school staff of the schedule of pesticide use on school property and their right to request notification. Such notification shall be made, to the extent possible, at least 72 hours in advance of nonscheduled pesticide use on school property. The notification requirements under this Policy 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" (no signal word required on the product's label).

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare guidelines and procedures consistent with this Policy to assist in implementation.

Approved: 05/05/08

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