

# INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PLAN FOR CALVERT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Pest Management Policy Statement

Structural pests, i.e. insects and rodents, carry diseases, contaminate food and food preparation areas and can cause structural damage thus posing significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Landscape pests, i.e. insects, weeds and diseases, can pose significant problems to students, staff and users of school properties. Pesticides can also pose risks through unnecessary exposures to people, property, and the environment. Pest control in the school environment must protect the health and safety of the children and staff, minimize pest damage to structures, personal property, improve the quality of the educational environment by avoiding annoyance and disruption of work and learning caused by insects, rodents and other pests. It is therefore the policy of the Calvert County Public School System/Board of Education to adopt Integrated Pest Management for control of pests in school buildings and on school grounds.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The IPM program will require the assistance and cooperation of the administration, staff, and students. The Calvert County Public School System/Board of Education has established a Contact Person to serve as a liaison between the administration and pest control program to provide oversight, consistency in the pest control program, and ensure the provisions of the IPM system are fulfilled. The Contact Person will advise the administration, staff, parents and guardians, and students as necessary of IPM program changes and new laws and regulations effecting the IPM system.

The Contact Person will discuss the IPM system and problem areas identified through the inspection and monitoring process. The Contact Person also serves as the liaison between the school administration and parents, guardians, students, and staff to address questions and concerns regarding the IPM system and pest control practices. The Contact Person will make recommendations to correct problem areas.

Students and staff will comply with the provisions of the IPM system by ensuring that areas requiring maintenance or repair, sanitation problems and pest problems or sightings are documented. Students and staff need to ensure good sanitation practices are followed.

## IPM Policy Statement

### Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (insects, animals, plants, or micro-organisms) that interfere with the use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment. IPM relies on the coordinated use of pest and environmental information and the best available pest management methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to students, staff, property, and the environment. Long-term control of pests is achieved its surroundings. Proper installation of plants, appropriate

watering regimes, and choosing plant species that are suited to specific sites and usage are some of the most effective measures for achieving long term pest control for school landscapes and grounds.

## Pest Management

The integrated pest management plan will be developed for the School System as required by the Maryland's Regulations pertaining to Integrated Pest Management and Notification of Pesticide Use in a Public School Building or on School Grounds. Approved pest management plans will be developed for the site and will include any proposed pest management measures.

Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property and prevent a reoccurrence of the problem.
- Prevent pests from spreading on the School Grounds or to plant and animal populations beyond the site.
- Improve the quality of the educational environment for students, staff, and the public.

## Integrated Pest Management

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and identify conditions contributing to pest problems through the use of monitoring and through inspections conducted at regular intervals. Problem areas will be identified where alternative pest control technologies can be incorporated to eliminate routine pesticide applications. The necessity for pest control, if warranted, will be evaluated based on information obtained from inspections and monitoring. These actions will be based on action threshold levels that will be established based on the site and pest. Within School Grounds, these decisions are based on key pests, key plants, and key locations found within the landscape. Action thresholds for School Grounds should be based on pest management objectives that have been established to satisfy the needs associated with the usage of specific sites. When pest control procedures are warranted in and around school buildings, one or more pest control methods including sanitation, structural repair, cultural practices, mechanical control, biological control, other non-chemical methods, and pesticides will be utilized.

IPM practitioners will depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. By applying IPM principles, unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage will be prevented by the most economical means while minimizing the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications.

The choice of using pesticides will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are unreasonable or have been exhausted, to minimize the use of pesticides. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for the use of pesticides and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of this School System/Board of Education to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of pest control alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet vital pest management goals, the least hazardous pesticide will be selected. The application of such pesticides is subject to the School System/Board of Education's policies and procedures and all applicable state, federal and local regulations including the Maryland Pesticide Applicators Law and Regulations, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

### Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be provided to the school by the licensee, permittee, or certified applicator at the time of the pesticide application and will be maintained for two (2) years. Records must be current and accurate. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests, location, or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments. Pest control procedures, including cultural practices utilized on school grounds, will be tracked. Documentation of communications to students and staff regarding IPM and pesticide use will be maintained by the Contact Person.

### Pesticide Purchase and Storage

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides must be stored in an appropriate, secure site, not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel.

### Pesticide Applications

Pesticides may be used after it is determined that non-toxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted. The least hazardous pesticide will be selected, and the method and time of application will be based on the goal to minimize the potential for exposure of students and staff to the pesticide. Pesticide applications made on school property will be conducted by an individual certified as a pest control applicator or by a registered employee working under the supervision of a certified applicator. Applicators must be trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides. They must follow state and federal pesticide regulations and label precautions and comply with this School System's IPM Policy and Plan.

### Education

Staff, students, pest managers, and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives and will be informed of their role in meeting these objectives.

### Program Evaluation

An annual review of the IPM system will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the program and that program objectives have been achieved. This will include the review of inspection reports, sanitation reports, and other records to establish current conditions, progress of the program against pest problems and conditions, effectiveness of action thresholds, and to identify problem areas in the IPM system that may need to be modified or changed. Evaluation is a critical part of a grounds management program and should include quantitative and qualitative assessments of pest population

densities, densities of natural enemies, and the quality of the site after the intervention takes place. Often, the evaluation of pest control efforts to school landscapes may be done during the next monitoring cycle, but in some situations special observations may be necessary to assess the success of the pest control tactic.

### Notification

This School System will notify the school staff, students, parents and guardians prior to pesticide applications made in school buildings or school grounds in accordance with Maryland regulations. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school and sent home to parents and guardians of elementary school students and parents and guardians of middle school students and high school students who wish to be informed in advance of pesticide applications and are on the pesticide notification list.

### Contact

The contact individual for Calvert County Public Schools is Mrs. Beatrice Weems. In the event Mrs. Weems cannot be reached, contact Mr. Gregory Gott. They can be reached at 443-550-8770.

### EPA Statement

“The Office of Pesticide Programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency has stated: ‘Where possible, persons who potentially are more sensitive, such as pregnant women and infants (less than two years old), should avoid unnecessary pesticide exposure’.”