

Port Arthur Independent School District IPM Policy

Pest Management Policy Statement

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems for people, property and the environment. The pesticides used to remediate such pests can also pose health risks to people, non-target organisms, and the environment. Because the health and safety of students and staff is our first priority – and a prerequisite to learning – it is the policy of PAISD to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for the control of structural and landscape pests. Through the use of IPM, PAISD will minimize pesticide use and maximize pest control, thereby reducing the exposure of children, parents, and staff to both.

To accomplish this goal, managers will utilize physical, mechanical, cultural, biological, and educational tactics as primary controls. Reduced-risk chemical controls will be used when necessary. Pests will be controlled to maintain the integrity of school buildings and grounds, to protect the health and safety of children and staff, and to maintain a productive learning environment. Contractors working in district buildings and grounds are required to adhere to all provisions of this policy.

Pest Management

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with use of the facility by students and staff. 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. PAISD shall appoint an IPM Coordinator who shall have primary responsibility for ensuring that this IPM policy is carried out.

1. The IPM Coordinator will oversee custodial, building and grounds, and maintenance staff to ensure implementation of pest prevention measures.
2. Manage pest control contractors and staff engaged in monitoring and control of pest problems.
3. Communicate with principals and district administration to carry out posting and notification, recordkeeping, and education provisions in this policy.
4. Make available IPM information to the school community (including parents) and answer questions on IPM topics.
5. Present reports to the facilities management evaluating the progress of the IPM program.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, or biological means. IPM practitioners depend on current,

comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage with least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents, and selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of PAISD to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen. PAISD will always comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations governing pesticide storage, transportation and use.

PAISD RECOGNIZES AND ADHERES TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1. Integrated Pest Management programs are designed to prevent pest problems whenever possible. This is done through monitoring, regular inspections, high standards of sanitation and pest proofing measures, or modification of environmental conditions leading to pest problems.
2. PAISD will establish pest tolerance thresholds for common pests. These thresholds will serve as an indicator for pest population levels and the point at which control measures will be undertaken. Control measures will not be undertaken if pest damage or populations are below threshold levels. In such cases, managers will use preventive measures such as improved sanitation, clutter reduction and exclusion of pests. When pests do exceed tolerance thresholds, non-chemical pest control measures (e.g., sanitation, screening, physical barriers, vacuuming, mulching, irrigation, fertilization, manual weeding, insect nest removal, pest-resistant plant selection) will be practiced.
3. Pesticides will be used when appropriate, along with other management practices or when other pest prevention and non-chemical control measures have failed to reduce pests below tolerance thresholds. When a pesticide must be used, the smallest amount of the reduced-risk product that will meet pest management goals will be used.
4. Insecticides will be used only in containerized baits, or for spot treatments targeted to insect infestations or problem areas where a minimal amount of material is used. Rodent baits shall not be used unless in childproof bait boxes. Bait boxes shall be inaccessible to children and tethered when appropriate.
5. Pesticide Use and Selection. To ensure the safety of students and staff, the management will use the following criteria to ensure that the least hazardous pesticide and/or the least hazardous method of control be utilized:
 - a. No use of any pesticide classified as highly acutely toxic by the U.S. EPA. This includes Hazard Category I and II, signal words DANGER and WARNING.

- b. PAISD shall not use any pesticide unless all ingredients in the product have been evaluated by the U.S. EPA.

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.

Record Keeping

PAISD will maintain records of pesticide use on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and the school board. PAISD will verify treatment needs using pest sighting logs or other means to record numbers of pests or other population indicators.

Notification

PAISD will notify the school staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments by notices posted at schools. Antimicrobial agents, such as sanitizers and insecticide and rodenticide baits, are exempt from notification requirements. Notification will occur in accordance with local/state laws. Exemptions from prior notification shall include emergency situations and applications of bait pesticides and/or container-delivery systems.

Pesticide Storage and Purchase

Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the EPA-registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate, secure site not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel.

Pesticide Applicators

Pesticide applicators must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides approved by PAISD. Applicators must follow regulations and label precautions for pesticide use. Applicators should be certified and comply with this IPM policy and any existing Pest Management Plan. Maintenance personnel who occasionally apply pesticides will be trained by the IPM coordinator according to incidental use regulations. Non-licensed personnel, including teachers and principals, are not authorized to apply any type of pesticides or herbicide on school district property.