

Policy Code: 9205 Pest Management

Pests are significant problems for people and property. The pesticides that are commonly used in pest control may pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. The board is committed to maintaining a safe educational environment while also protecting the physical conditions of school facilities. To this end, the board will utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs or incorporate IPM procedures into the maintenance program conducted by the school system. The superintendent will appoint an IPM contact person to facilitate the use of IPM techniques. As necessary, the superintendent will develop administrative procedures for the IPM program.

A. Overview of Integrated Pest Management

IPM is a comprehensive approach that combines effective, economic, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable methods to prevent and solve pest problems. IPM emphasizes pest prevention and provides a decision-making process for determining if, when, and where pest suppression is needed and what control tactics are appropriate.

Through its IPM program, the school system will strive to do the following:

1. minimize any potential health, environmental, and economic risks from pests or from the use of pest control methods;
2. minimize loss or damage to school structures or property from pests or from the use of pest control methods;
3. minimize the risk of pests spreading into the community; and
4. enhance the quality of facility use for the school and community.

IPM will 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. School personnel in charge of pest management will consider how and when pesticides need to be used to achieve the pest management goals. Pesticide use will not be based *solely* on a schedule. When a decision is made to use pesticides, licensed school personnel shall utilize the least toxic pesticide formulation and most targeted application method possible.

B. Use of IPM in Facility and Maintenance Operations

The school system shall include pest management considerations in facilities planning and maintenance. The IPM contact person, in conjunction with the school system's contracted pest management professional, will recommend to the superintendent any landscaping changes, structural modifications, and sanitation changes needed to reduce or prevent pest problems. The superintendent will review such recommendations and may authorize action to address necessary minor changes in a timely manner, as the budget permits. For significant changes or changes that require a significant expenditure of funds, the superintendent will recommend changes to the board for approval.

C. Providing Information on IPM to the School Community

Staff, students, pest managers, parents, and the public will be informed about potential school pest problems, school IPM policies and procedures, and their respective roles in achieving the desired pest management objectives. Each year, the principal or designee will ensure that the student handbook includes the schedule of anticipated pesticide use on school property and a notice to parents, guardians, and custodians of their right to request notification of nonscheduled

pesticide use. Additionally, the principal, building-level supervisor or designee shall annually notify school or building staff of scheduled pesticide use on school property and of their right to request notice of nonscheduled pesticide use. Notice of nonscheduled pesticide use should be made at least 96 hours in advance of such use, to the extent possible.

The notification requirements 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 titled “relatively nontoxic” (i.e., no signal word required on the product’s label).

D. Recordkeeping

Records of all pest management activities must be maintained, including inspection records, monitoring records, pest surveillance data sheets or other indicators of pest populations, and records of structural repairs and modifications. If pesticides are used, records must be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the board and the state regulatory agency.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-12](#)(34)d and e, [-36](#), [-47](#)(47)

Cross References: School Safety (policy 1510/4200/7270), Planning to Address Facility Needs (policy 9000), Care and Maintenance of Facilities (policy 9200)

Adopted: December 7, 2021

New Hanover County Public Schools
