

# ERA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Era Independent School District IPM Policy Statement for Integrated Pest Management in Schools

### School Pest Management Policy Statement

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with the use of the school site for human purposes. Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment; however, the pesticides used to solve these problems carry their own risks. It is therefore the policy of the Era Independent School District to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for the control of structural and landscape pests. 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. It is the goal of this District to provide safe, effective, and economically feasible pest control while protecting students, staff, the environment, and District property.

### Integrated Pest Management Procedures and Objectives

Pest control using IPM requires an understanding of the pest's life cycle and habits. The District will use this information, combined with regular monitoring, to determine if, when, and how to intervene for optimum pest control. The District will strive to utilize a number of different strategies, not just pesticides, to control pests. The goal of Era ISD is long-term pest control, and as such, emphasis will be placed on preventing pests and on making the school environment inhospitable to them.

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests, and whether to use sanitation, mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, or biological means. Chemical controls will be used only after all other alternatives are considered and found to be inadequate or not feasible to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. 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. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

Era ISD pest management goals include the following:

- reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety
- prevent loss or damage to school resources, structures, or property
- prevent pests from spreading into the community, or to plant and animal populations beyond the site
- enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, the least-hazardous (\*see information on pesticide labeling at the end of this statement) material will be chosen. The application of such pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA, 7 United States Code 136 et seq.), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, state and local regulations, and Era ISD policies and procedures.

### Education

Staff, students, administrative personnel, 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. IPM training will be made available to staff directly involved in pest management, food service, and in the maintenance of buildings and grounds.



## Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and the School Board. Records will be current and accurate. The objective is to create records from which programs and practices can be evaluated in order to improve the system and to eliminate ineffective and unnecessary treatments.

## Notification and Posting

Era ISD will notify school staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments as appropriate. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school as needed, and will be sent home annually in writing (as a part of the Student Handbook) to parents who wish to be informed in advance of pesticide applications.

## Monitoring

District personnel will periodically inspect buildings and grounds to inventory conditions that could lead to pest problems. District personnel will also monitor key pest populations to determine if, and when, they should be treated. Records of inspection activities will be used to determine optimum times to control pests. Monitoring will continue after treatment in order to evaluate effectiveness.

## IPM Coordinator / Pesticide Applicators

The District will designate a person to serve as the IPM Coordinator who will be responsible for implementing this IPM policy and any IPM plans. The Coordinator's primary responsibilities will include the following:

- serving as the primary contract for pest control matters
- overseeing district staff or contractors responsible for pest management
- devising and overseeing a monitoring program; keeping written reports of monitoring data
- evaluating the effectiveness of any treatments, either non-chemical or chemical, used for pest control
- evaluating the progress of the IPM program

Pesticide applicators, if necessary, will be appropriately licensed or certified in the state of Texas, and educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides approved by Era ISD. They must follow regulations and label precautions. Unauthorized persons are prohibited from bringing and/or applying pesticides to school property.

## Pesticide Storage and Purchasing

Pesticides purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year to the extent possible. 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 Labeling\*

Law requires that precautionary statements and signal words be included on all pesticide labels. Misuse of any pesticide is not only illegal, but may create a potentially dangerous situation. Signal words indicate the level of acute (immediate) toxicity of the pesticide to humans when taken orally. Chronic (long-term) toxicity is not indicated on the label. However, chronic toxicity may be important for materials used frequently or extensively, or used in areas where children may receive regular whole-body exposure (for example, lawns on which young children play or sit). Every pesticide label bears the child hazard warning: "Keep Out of Reach of Children."

IPM Policy Statement approved by Era ISD Board of Trustees on (date): 6/16/08



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