

Seattle Public Schools Superintendent's Policies and Procedures Integrated Pest Management

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Effective Date: 3/01/02

POLICY

The Seattle School District will provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff, and users of school properties. To this end, the District will utilize safe and effective practices to control structural, nuisance, and landscape pests.

When pests* reach an unacceptable threshold they can adversely impact the school environment. Pesticides used to control pests can also pose risks if used indiscriminately.

To minimize risk from both pests and pesticides, the District will implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. IPM emphasizes preventing and reducing pest problems by using proactive, non-chemical control practices, rather than responding to a pest crisis through the use of pesticides. IPM relies on a combination of common sense strategies. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options possibly including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.

*Any living organism that by the situation or size of its population adversely interferes with the health, environmental, functional, or economic goals of humans.

PROCEDURE

Introduction

The District will use IPM procedures to prevent pests or their damage from reaching unacceptable levels. IPM is an approach to pest control that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed and employs physical, cultural, biological, chemical, and educational tactics to keep pest numbers low enough to prevent intolerable damage or annoyance. The District will provide information to parents, staff, and students, as appropriate, to inform them about the IPM program and define their responsibilities in assisting with this process.

IPM Criteria

IPM criteria for selecting treatment tactics and developing pest management strategies include:

- least hazardous to human health
- least damaging to the environment
- effectiveness at controlling the target pest
- minimal negative impacts to non-target organisms
- available resources

IPM Advisory Committee

An IPM Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from Logistics, school administration, teachers, parents, students, IPM practitioners, and the community will provide guidance to the program. The Advisory Committee (eight or nine members; four from the District, two from the business community, one appointed from the PTA, and one member from the environmental community) will review the IPM program and evaluate its effectiveness. Logistics staff will coordinate meetings and provide pertinent information on IPM prescriptions, management strategies, and treatment records to the committee.

Responsibilities

1. The Environmental Liaison at each site will be the contact person for IPM activities. Logistics staff will assist by providing consulting services, to include an IPM planning guide.
2. With the exception of pest control mandated by existing federal or state laws, each site will determine the pest threshold level for their site. The IPM program will be endorsed and signed by the Principal and kept on file at both the site and with Logistics.
3. Staff from Logistics or the site, trained in IPM techniques, will perform regular monitoring and evaluation.

Responsibilities (continued)

4. Logistics staff and District educators will take a proactive position in promoting IPM concepts to help students become good stewards of their environment.
5. The use of privately acquired pest control sprays (e.g. Raid, ant killers, etc) will not be permitted on District premises.
6. Decisions related to the use of chemical products to control pests will be made by the Executive Director of Logistics or designee and the Principal after consideration of all IPM criteria.

Notification

At the beginning of the school year, all parents will receive information about the District IPM program that explains the concepts of IPM and includes the following:

1. All pesticide application (including insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and fungicides) made to District sites will be under the direction of a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) licensed pest control applicator or operator (PCO) or a licensed public agency operator. Unauthorized faculty and staff are not permitted to use their own pesticide products at any school site or facility.
2. Each site will establish a registration system to notify parents, staff, and students, who express an interest, of proposed pesticide applications. Notices will be given to registered individuals 48 hours in advance of the application or on the day preceding a weekend. No notices will be sent when tamper-resistant insect or rodent bait stations or crack or crevice treatments.
3. Prenotification requirements do not apply to any emergency application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency application is made, notification consistent with registration system shall occur as soon as possible after the application.

Posting

1. For indoor pesticide applications, sites will post 48 hours in advance of the application or on the day preceding a weekend or vacation period application. Personnel will comply with any existing or future federal or state laws regarding posting.
2. For outdoor pesticide applications, sites will post according to Washington State laws governing landscape applications (RCW 17.21.410).
3. Signs will remain for 48 hours after an application has been completed. The District will not require that a sign be replaced if the original has been removed or destroyed. Licensed applicators or operators will not be held responsible for signs removed or destroyed by acts beyond their control.

Recordkeeping

1. Logistics will maintain pesticide application records in accordance with the Washington State General Pesticide Rules (WAC 16-228-190). Pesticide application records, pest monitoring records, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and pesticide product labels will be on file in the Logistics office.
2. The Principal/Program Manager will be responsible for maintaining a pesticide product label and MSDS sheet for each product used at their site. It will be the responsibility of the commercial applicator, commercial operator, or public operator to provide these documents to the Principal/Program Manager or their designated IPM contact person.

Pesticide Storage

All pesticides used at any school site will be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the WSDA. Pesticides will be stored in a clearly posted and secure site not accessible to students or other unauthorized personnel.

Contractors

All contractors must comply with the District IPM policy and procedures.

Construction Design

All future construction, renovations, and landscape modifications will incorporate pest exclusion, prevention, and other established IPM techniques in the planning, design, and construction process.