

The Board of Public Education
of the
Pittsburgh School District

APPROVED
BY BOARD 5-20-98

OFFICE OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS/PLANT OPERATIONS

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, The Board of Public Education of the Pittsburgh School District (Board) believes in maintaining and improving its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to minimize pest problems while providing a healthy environment for students, employees and other users of the facilities within its urban area which has a diverse high-density population, and

WHEREAS, the Board realizes that pests can pose a significant health problem for students and other users of the facilities. The Board also realizes the importance of minimizing the use of pesticides within its IPM program. Therefore, the application of pesticides are to be performed only after alternative methods have been exhausted. In addition when pesticides are needed they will be used in the safest manner possible within Federal and State Laws, and

WHEREAS, the Board has provided ongoing pest control training for 65 employees to qualify and obtain and maintain pest control applicator's licenses from the PA Department of Agriculture. The Board also acquired a Pest Control Business License in 1987 to operate its In-House Pest Control program, and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that there is evidence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that children are more vulnerable than adults to chemicals in their environment, that the long-term exposure effect is largely unknown, and that some chemicals, such as those used in pesticides, can have detrimental effects on a child's immature physiology, and

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh School District shall continue improving its Pest Control education program with more-thorough usage of preventive measures and strategic application of limited quantities of pesticide products approved for usage in school facilities within the bounds of State and Federal Laws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all Administrators and other Board employees are required to support the "IPM" program policies, including taking the necessary actions to ensure harborage corrections through structural modifications of facilities and elimination of conditions that result in food and a water supply for pests or other conditions conducive for pest infestations. Pesticides will only be used when other preventative measures are not sufficient to reduce pests to manageable levels.

RESOLVED Finally, that the policy of this School District shall incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests, copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

OFFICE OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS/PLANT OPERATIONS

May 1998

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Philosophy

The Board of Public Education of the Pittsburgh School District (Board) believes in maintaining and improving its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to minimize pest problems while providing a healthy environment for students, employees and other users of the facilities within its urban area which has a diverse high-density population.

The Board realizes that pests can pose a significant health problem for students and other users of the facilities. The Board also realizes the importance of minimizing the use of pesticides within its IPM program. Therefore, the application of pesticides are to be performed only after alternative methods have been exhausted. In addition when pesticides are needed they will be used in the safest manner possible within Federal and State Laws.

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The Board recognizes that there is evidence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that children are more vulnerable than adults to chemicals in their environment, that the long-term exposure effect is largely unknown, and that some chemicals, such as those used in pesticides, can have detrimental effects on a child's immature physiology.

The Pittsburgh School District shall continue improving its Pest Control education program with more-thorough usage of preventive measures and strategic application of limited quantities of pesticide products approved for usage in school facilities within the bounds of State and Federal Laws.

School Pest Management Policy

A. All Administrators and other Board employees are required to support the "IPM" program policies, including taking the necessary actions to ensure harborage corrections through structural modifications of facilities and elimination of conditions that result in food and a water supply for pests or other conditions conducive for pest infestations. Pesticides will only be used when other preventative measures are not sufficient to reduce pests to manageable levels.

B. Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people's property and the environment. It is therefore the policy of this School District to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

C. The Pittsburgh School District will continue to intensify efforts to improve the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program which use chemical controls only when other preventive measures are not sufficient to reduce pests to manageable levels.

Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or micro-organisms) that interfere with 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.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is an effective and environmentally-sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interactions with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. The decision-making process includes pest identification, monitoring of pest populations and measures. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options possible including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.

Pesticide

The word pesticide is an umbrella term for all the sub-categories of materials used to suppress pests. These include Insecticides, Rodenticides, Fungicides and Herbicides.

Pest Management

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 of or damage to school 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.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural, biological means or some combination thereof. 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 by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. 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 this School District 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, and all other measures have failed, the most appropriate pesticide may be applied in a school building or on the

grounds. The pesticide application will occur when students are not expected for normal academic instruction or organized extracurricular activities for at least 24 hours following the application. A period of 24 hours shall lapse following the application of pesticide, except for very limited usage of pesticide in emergency. The authority will be vested in the principal of each school to consult with the pest control applicator of the Board about pest problems and declare an emergency if deemed necessary. The main emphasis will always be to direct the pesticide into the harborage area or areas to minimize or eliminate the spread of any residue to other non-target areas.

IPM techniques will be adjusted to meet conditions as they arise or as new techniques are developed. The District will support the IPM program by:

- * Providing staff development programs for all employees regarding storage of food, perishable instructional materials, cleaning techniques, and the operating of traps.

The IPM program will be administered to control pests in a sufficient manner to assure a safe and healthy environment for students to learn and grow.

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

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on a designated site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency (Department of Agriculture) and the School Board. Records must be current and accurate if IPM is to work. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments.

Annual Report

Annual Report will be produced that will include data on schools/sites with pest problems, and type of procedures utilized, such as structural modification, sanitary improvements and the application of pesticides. Successes and failures will be compiled for each procedure by location.

Notification

In accordance with the recommendation of Department of Education, the following guidelines on notification will be applied:

1. The District will utilize existing communication mechanisms already established, e.g. medical testing, early dismissal, school insurance, etc.
2. Parents/guardians shall be notified by the principal of the school or his/her designee 24 hours but no more than 72 hours prior to pesticide application, except in emergencies. The principal of each school must maintain a record with the names of any students who are listed in the Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry of the PA Department of Agriculture and always notify these individuals and/or their parents/guardians whenever pesticide application is made.

3. Notification can be provided through normal school communication channels to parents/guardians.
4. The following information should be included in the notice: date, time and location of the application; brand name, EPA number and active ingredient (common name) of pesticides to be used; name, telephone number and license number of the applicator business.
5. A provision/mechanism for the emergency use of pesticides in the event of immediate threat to the health and safety of students will be established. Parents/guardians will be made aware of the provisions for emergency applications.
6. A notice will be posted in the school in addition to notifying parents/guardians. This will provide school employees and visitors with information regarding pesticide use.

Pesticide Storage

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 Applicators

Pesticide applicators must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides used by this School District. They must follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators must be certified by the State Department of Agriculture and comply with this School District IPM Policy and Pest Management Plan. Pesticide applicators must receive update training as required by State Law.

NOTE: PDA HAS RECEIVED WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE PITTSBURGH SCHOOL BOARD TO DISTRIBUTE THIS DOCUMENT AS AN EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL IPM POLICY STATEMENT.