

# Model School Pest Management Policy

A model policy for school districts  
seeking to protect children and school employees from pesticides.



## **Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides**

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# MODEL SCHOOL PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY\*

\_\_\_\_\_ **School District**

**Board of Education Policy No.** \_\_\_\_\_

## **SECTION 1. Preamble.**

- (a) The maintenance of a safe, clean, healthy environment for students and staff is essential to learning and is a goal of the school district.
- (b) The use of toxic chemicals to control pests and weeds may itself threaten staff and students' health and ability to learn.
- (c) Similar programs in other school districts and institutions around the country have shown that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a viable, cost-effective approach to controlling pests.

## **SECTION 2. Policy Goals.**

- (a) To prevent unnecessary exposure of children to chemical pesticides and provide the healthiest learning environment, playgrounds, and playfields possible.
- (b) To promote safer alternatives to chemical pesticides while preventing economic and health damage caused by pests.
- (c) To ensure that clear and accurate notification concerning the use of pesticides in schools be made available so that measures may be taken to prevent and address pest problems effectively without endangering children or adults.
- (d) To implement the use of integrated pest management techniques to reduce the need for reliance on chemical pesticides.

## **SECTION 3. Definitions.**

- (a) "Anti-microbial pesticide", a pesticide that is used for the control of microbial pests, including, but not limited to, viruses, bacteria, algae and protozoa, and is intended to disinfect, sanitize, reduce or mitigate growth or development of microbiological organisms. Anti-microbial pesticides shall not include any fungicide or pesticide used on plants, turf or other vegetation or for ornamental uses.
- (b) "Contact person" means an individual knowledgeable about integrated pest management systems and designated by a local educational agency of a school district.
- (c) "Crack and crevice treatment" means the application of small quantities of a pesticide in a building into openings such as those commonly found at expansion joints, between levels of construction, and between equipment and floors.

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\* *Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP) based this model school policy on existing policies adopted around the country. For assistance on getting a school policy adopted at your school or school district, for information on school pesticide use, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Kagan Owens, Beyond Pesticides/NCAMP Program Director at [kowens@beyondpesticides.org](mailto:kowens@beyondpesticides.org) or at 202-543-5450.*

(d) "Emergency" means an urgent need to mitigate or eliminate a pest that threatens the health or safety of a student or staff member.

(e) "Integrated pest management" means a managed pest control program that eliminates or mitigates economic and health damage caused by pests, minimizes the use of pesticides and the risk to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications, and uses:

- (1) integrated methods;
- (2) site or pest inspections;
- (3) pest population monitoring;
- (4) an evaluation of the need for pest control; and,
- (5) one or more pest control methods, including sanitation, structural repairs, mechanical and living biological controls, other non-chemical methods, and, if nontoxic options are unreasonable and have been exhausted, a least toxic pesticide.

(g) "Least toxic pesticide" means boric acid and disodium octoborate tetrahydrate; silica gels; diatomaceous earth; nonvolatile insect and rodent baits in tamper resistant containers or for crack and crevice treatment only; microbe-based insecticides; pesticides made with essential oils (not including synthetic pyrethroids) without toxic synergists; and materials for which the inert ingredients are nontoxic and disclosed. Least toxic pesticide does not include a pesticide that: is determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a probable, likely, or known carcinogen or endocrine disruptor; is a mutagen, reproductive toxin, developmental neurotoxin, or immune system toxin; is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a toxicity I or II pesticide; is in the organophosphate or carbamate chemical family; or contains inert ingredients categorized as "List 1: Inerts of Toxicological Concern." Least toxic pesticide does not include any application of pesticide using a broadcast spray, dust, tenting, fogging, or baseboard spray application.

(h) "Pesticide" means any substance or mixture of substances, including herbicides and bait stations, intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest; use as a plant regulator, defoliants, or desiccant; or use as a spray adjuvant such as a wetting agent or adhesive. Pesticide does not include: an antimicrobial agent, such as a disinfectant, sanitizer, or deodorizer, used for cleaning purposes.

(i) "School" means any school for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school students in the school district or any pre-school/day care center receiving government funding for a Head Start program.

(j) "School grounds" means the area outside of the school buildings controlled, managed, or owned by the school or school district and includes a lawn, playground, sports field, and any other property or facility controlled, managed or owned by a school.

(k) "Space spraying" means application of a pesticide by discharge into the air throughout an inside area and includes the application of a pesticide using a broadcast spray, dust, tenting, fogging, or space spraying does not include crack and crevice treatment.

(l) "Staff member" means an employee of a school system and includes administrators, teachers, and other support personnel. Staff member does not include: a registered employee or applicator certified by the department; or a person assisting in the application of a pesticide.

(m) "Universal notification" means written notice by a school or school district to all parents and guardians of children attending the school, and staff members of the school.

#### **Section 4. General.**

- (a) If, on the date of enactment of this policy, a school in this school district maintains an IPM system that meets the standards and criteria established by this policy, the school may continue to implement the system in a school or school district in accordance with this policy.
- (b) The requirements of this policy apply to school buildings and school grounds of the school district.
- (c) This policy shall apply to any person that applies a pesticide in a school or on a school ground, including a custodian, staff member, or commercial applicator.
- (d) This policy shall apply to a school during the school year and during holidays and the summer months, if the school is in use, with notice provided to all staff members and the parents or guardians of the students that are using the school in an authorized manner.

**Section 5. Local Educational Agency of a School District.**

- (a) A local educational agency of a school district shall develop and implement in its schools an integrated pest management system.
- (b) School Integrated Pest Management Advisory Board.
  - (1) The local educational agency of a school district shall establish a School Integrated Pest Management Advisory Board to:
    - (A) establish uniform standards and criteria for developing integrated pest management systems and policies in schools; and
    - (B) develop standards for the use of least toxic pesticides in schools.
  - (2) The Board shall be composed of 12 members and include 1 representative from each of the following groups:
    - (A) parents;
    - (B) public health care professionals;
    - (C) medical professionals;
    - (D) state integrated pest management system coordinator;
    - (E) independent integrated pest management specialists;
    - (F) environmental advocacy groups;
    - (G) children's health advocacy groups;
    - (H) trade organization for pest control operators;
    - (I) teachers and school staff members;
    - (J) school maintenance staff and school facility managers;
    - (K) school administrators; and,
    - (L) school board members.
- (c) A local educational agency of a school district shall designate a contact person. The contact person shall:
  - (1) act as a contact for inquiries about the integrated pest management system;
  - (2) maintain material safety data sheets and labels for all pesticides which may be used inside or outside schools within the school district;
  - (3) maintain scheduling of all pesticide usage for schools in the school district;
  - (4) obtain periodic updates and training from state integrated pest management system experts;
  - (5) on request, make the school district and individual school's pest management and pesticide use data available to the public for review; and,
  - (6) present an annual report to the school board evaluating the progress of the integrated pest management program.

**Section 6. Notice of Integrated Pest Management Plan.**

- (a) At the beginning of each school year, the local educational agency of a school district shall include a notice of the integrated pest management system of the school district in school calendars or other forms of universal notification.

(b) After the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency of a school district shall provide the notice required under this section to a newly employed staff member or the parent or guardian of a student newly enrolled during the school year.

(c) The notice shall include:

- (1) a description of the integrated pest management system of the school district;
- (2) a list of all pesticides, including any least toxic pesticide, that may be used in a school building or on a school ground as part of the integrated pest management system;
- (3) the name, address, and telephone number of the contact person of the school district; and
- (4) a statement that the contact person maintains the product label and material safety data sheet (MSDS) of each pesticide used by the school in buildings and on school grounds, that the label or MSDS is available for review by the public upon request, and that the contact person is available to parents, guardians, and staff members for information and comment.

## **Section 7. Pesticide Notification.**

(a) Universal Notification.

(1) Not less than 72 hours before a pesticide, other than a least toxic pesticide, is applied in a school building or on school grounds, the school district shall provide to each parent and guardian of each student enrolled at the school and each staff of the school, notice that includes:

- (A) the common name, trade name, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration number of the pesticide;
- (B) a description of the location of the application of the pesticide;
- (C) a description of the date and time of application, except that, in the case of outdoor pesticide applications, each notice shall include three dates, in chronological order, that the outdoor pesticide applications may take place if the preceding date is canceled due to weather;
- (D) the statement that “The Office of Pesticide Programs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has stated: ‘Where possible, persons who potentially are sensitive, such as pregnant woman and infants (less than 2 years old), should avoid any unnecessary pesticide exposure;’”
- (E) a description of potential adverse effects of the pesticide based on the MSDS for the pesticide;
- (F) a description of the reasons for the application of the pesticide;
- (G) the name and telephone number of the contact person of the school district; and
- (H) any additional warning information related to the pesticide.

(2) The school district may provide the notice required by subsection (a)(1) by:

- (A) written notice sent home with the student and provided to the staff member;
- (B) a telephone call;
- (C) direct contact; or
- (D) written notice mailed at least one week before the application.

(3) If the date of the application of the pesticide needs to be extended beyond the period required for notice under this section, the school district shall reissue the notice under this section for the new date of application.

(b) Posted Notification Signs.

(1) At least 72 hours before a pesticide, other than a least toxic pesticide, is used by a school, the school district shall post a sign that provides notice of the application of the pesticide:

- (A) in a prominent place that is in or adjacent to the location to be treated; and
- (B) at each entrance to the building or school ground to be treated.

(2) A sign shall be posted as required under subsection (b)(1) for the application of a pesticide shall:

- (A) remain posted for at least 72 hours after the end of the treatment;
- (B) be of uniform design with a symbol people who cannot read can easily understand; and,
- (C) state the same information as that required for universal notification of the application under subsection (a)(1).

(3) Sign Dimensions.

(A) If an application is made on school grounds the dimensions of each sign shall be at least 16 inches by 20 inches.

(B) If an application is made in a school building, the dimensions of each sign shall be at least 8 ½ inches by 11 inches.

(4) In the case of outdoor pesticide applications, each sign shall include three dates, in chronological order, that the outdoor pesticide application may take place if the preceding date is cancelled due to weather.

### **Section 8. Emergency Pesticide Use.**

(a) A school may apply a pesticide subject to section 9 in a school or on school grounds without complying with all the provisions of section 7 only if a pest problem is deemed an emergency by the School Integrated Pest Management Advisory Board.

(b) Not later than the earlier of the time that is 24 hours after a school applies a pesticide under this section or on the morning of the next school day, the school district shall provide universal notification to each parent, guardian, student, and staff member, notice of the application of the pesticide for emergency pest control that includes:

(1) the information required for a notice under section 7(a) of this policy;

(2) a description of the problem and the factors that qualified the problem as an emergency that threatened the health or safety of a student or staff member; and

(3) a description of the steps the school will take in the future to avoid an emergency application of a pesticide under this section.

(c) A school applying a pesticide under this section shall post a sign warning of the pesticide application at the time of the pesticide application and in accordance with section 7(b).

(d) If a school applies a pesticide under this section, the local educational agency of a school district shall modify the integrated pest management plan of the school district to minimize the future applications of pesticides under this section.

(e) A record of the emergency pesticide use, including the identification of the cause and the actions taken to address it, shall be maintained as a part of the records required under section 10 of this policy.

### **Section 9. School Pesticide Use.**

(a) Pesticides shall not be made on a routine schedule (e.g. seasonal, monthly, or weekly).

(b) Pesticides shall only be used indoors when children are not on the property of a school, except for those pesticides defined as least toxic pesticides.

(b) Pesticides shall only be used on school grounds when children are not located in, on, or adjacent to the area of the pesticide application, except for those pesticides defined as least toxic pesticides. Pesticides, other than least toxic pesticides, shall not be used when a school or school ground is occupied or in use or will be during the 24 hour period beginning at the end of the treatment.

(c) A school may use a pesticide during a school year only if the use of the pesticide has been disclosed in the notice required under section 6 at the beginning of the school year.

(d) Pesticides that are in the organophosphate or carbamate family shall not be used in school buildings or on school grounds.

(e) Pesticides that contain inert ingredients appearing on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "List 1: Inerts of Toxicological Concern" shall not be applied in school buildings or on school grounds.

(f) Pesticides shall not be used for purely aesthetic purposes only.

(g) U.S. EPA acute toxicity category I and II pesticides shall not be used in school buildings or on school grounds.

(h) Pesticides identified by the State of California as chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer, developmental or reproductive toxicity pursuant to California Safe Drinking Water Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) shall not be used in school buildings or on school grounds.

(i) Pesticide applications made via fogging or space spraying shall not be used at schools.

## **Section 10. Record Keeping.**

- (a) A written or electronic record of all pesticide applications made at a school shall be maintained on site for a period of not less than seven years, and shall be made available to the public upon request.
- (b) The record shall be completed on the day of the pesticide application, and shall include, but not limited to:
  - (1) the purpose for the desired application(s);
  - (2) the date and time of the application;
  - (3) the application area;
  - (4) the brand name and ingredients (active ingredients) of the pesticide product, the name of the pesticide manufacturer and the federal EPA registration number;
  - (5) quantity used of the pesticide and method of application;
  - (6) least toxic and non-chemical alternative methods or treatments available to accomplish the desired objectives and the reasons why the application of the proposed pesticide was chosen;
  - (7) the possible adverse effects to humans as stated on the label or MSDS; and,
  - (8) the name of the individual who applied the pesticide.
- (c) The school district shall annually review its pest management program to evaluate how well its pest prevention and control objectives are being met, and to identify areas where improvement is needed. The report will be provided to school board members and made available to the public upon request. Summary information and notice of the annual report's availability will be provided along with the notice of the schools district's Integrated Pest Management Plan under section 6. The school district shall prepare a report containing the following information:
  - (1) quantities of each pesticide, including least toxic pesticides, applied during the year;
  - (2) target pest for each pesticide used;
  - (3) cost of the school district's pest management program for the year in review;
  - (4) number of emergency pesticide applications made during the year;
  - (5) non-chemical pest prevention and control measures used; and,
  - (6) pest management plan for the coming year.

## **Section 11. Meetings.**

- (a) Each local educational agency of a school district shall provide an opportunity, at least once each year, at a regularly scheduled meeting, for the contact person appointed under section 5(c) of this policy to receive and address public comments regarding the system.
- (b) The notice of the meeting shall be included in the universal notification required at the start of each school year under section 6 of this act.

**Section 12. Buffer Zones.** The local educational agency and state pesticide lead agency are encouraged to:

- (a) identify sources of pesticides that drift from treated land to school grounds of the educational agency; and
- (b) take steps necessary to create an indoor and outdoor school environment that are protected from pesticides described in subsection (a)(1) which may include establishing buffer zones in a 2 mile radius around the school's property during commuting times and while students and school employees may be on school grounds.

**Section 13. Antimicrobial Pesticides.** The department shall conduct a review of antimicrobial pesticides, as defined in section 2, to determine whether and to what extent they should be subject to the provisions of this chapter.