

## Washtenaw Intermediate School District Pesticide Management Program

### *Overview:*

### Concerns:

Pesticides are chemicals that are intended to destroy unwanted pest organisms. The term includes insecticides for insect pests, herbicides for weedy plants, fungicides for mildew or plant diseases and rodenticides for mice or rats. Pesticides can have undesirable side effects if they contact other species besides the target ones. They may be toxic to humans, fish, desirable plants, or useful insects such as pollinating bees.

Pesticides have been used both inside and outside of schools in response to such pests as wasps, ants, termites, cockroaches, head lice, mice, weeds in grassed areas, diseases of trees, and poison ivy. When students or employees are experiencing discomfort or unsafe conditions due to pests, or when pests are threatening the plantings or the school structure, a remedy is demanded. However, parents, staff and students may voice concerns about pesticide use, including:

- Possible health hazards to school occupants during or after application
- Unwanted environmental side effects
- Individual sensitivities to chemicals
- Cost for pesticides, required applicator training, and disposal of residues

### Washtenaw Intermediate School Districts pesticide policy

*Purpose: Management of buildings and grounds will minimize the need for pest control and protect individuals from unnecessary exposure to herbicides/pesticides.*

Conditions when pest controls may be used:

- Discomfort or unsafe conditions for students or employees
- Significant esthetic damage is being caused
- Overall long term health of tree shrub, or plant is being damaged
- Significant increases in pest problems are predictable
- Impending loss of an important district resource

## Notification and Protection of Individuals:

- Pesticides will not be applied where individuals are present, or will be present for the next 12 hours
- Signs will be posted when pesticides are applied in schools or on the grounds
- When an application of pesticides are planned, letters will be sent to those parents, guardians and employees who request that they be notified.
- Note: An exception to prior notification is allowed when the public health is threatened without immediate action. A sign will be posted and letters sent out after the application.

*It is the WISD policy to plan and notify in advance to the best of it's ability any and all pesticide applications.*

*Washtenaw Intermediate School District does not employ, train or instruct in house staff to apply pesticides. We contract with only licensed contractors to apply, bate, and manage problem areas only. It is our policy to only treat when necessary.*

*These areas and other areas of concern are listed on a public chart and monitored by the contractor and buildings and ground staff*