



## A Model Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement for Vermont Schools

Pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides pose similar risks. Children spend a great deal of time in schools and face greater potential for health effects resulting from pest and pesticide exposure. By reducing reliance on pesticides and incorporating low-risk control options, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces both pests and pesticide risks. It is therefore the policy of this school to apply IPM techniques for controlling pests in school buildings and on school grounds.

### Integrated pest management techniques

IPM relies on pest monitoring and the most economical and least hazardous combination of cultural, physical, biological, and/or chemical controls to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. The school will develop a management plan for different sites (kitchen, ball fields, cafeteria, classrooms, etc.) on school property that may experience pest problems. These plans will incorporate IPM and outline specific management tactics.

The full range of management options, including no action at all, will be considered. The choice of using a pesticide is based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Non-pesticide pest management methods are used whenever possible. Direct action will be used only when specific pest thresholds are reached. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, the least hazardous material and method of application will be chosen. Pesticide applications will be timed to minimize their impact on school grounds. All pesticides including disinfectants, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, repellants and wood preservatives will be handled according to state and federal law.

### Pest management objectives

- Maintain a safe and sustainable school environment.
- Protect human health by suppressing pests that threaten public health and safety.
- Reduce exposure of humans, particularly children, to pesticides.
- Reduce or prevent pest damage to school properties.
- Reduce environmental pollution.
- Reduce the costs of pest management.
- Prevent pests from spreading beyond school property.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others using school property.

## **IPM Coordinator**

The school should identify an IPM Coordinator responsible for overseeing implementation of the IPM Policy and site plans. The IPM Coordinator can be the principal, a custodian, or a member of the faculty. The Coordinator's responsibilities will include:

- Recording all pest sightings by school staff and students.
- Recording all pesticide use.
- Coordinating management activities with pest control contractors.
- Approving appropriate pesticide applications—methods, materials, timing, and location.
- Assuring that all of the pest control contractor's recommendations on maintenance and sanitation are carried out where feasible.
- Posting and notification of pesticide application.
- Assuring that any pesticide use is done when the school is not in session or when the area can be completely secured against access by school staff and students.
- Evaluating the school's progress in implementing the IPM plan

## **Education**

The school community will be educated about potential pest problems and IPM methods used to achieve the pest management objectives. From the very beginning, IPM should involve people from all segments of the school community.

## **Record keeping**

Pest sighting data sheets and pest control records will be kept current and accessible to verify the need for treatments and track the effectiveness of management activities. Pesticide records shall be maintained on site and meet the requirements of the Vermont Department of Agriculture.

## **Notification/Posting**

Within the first two weeks of every school year a notice will be provided to school staff, students, and parents or legal guardians briefly explaining the school's pesticide use policy (*A suggested notification template is also included with this model IPM policy*). The notice will indicate that pesticides may be used both indoors and outdoors, as needed. Notification will be given at least two days before planned pesticide applications. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff. [*The school has a choice to give notice either to all staff, parents or legal guardians or to staff, parents or legal guardians who have asked to be put on a notification registry*].

## **Pesticide storage and purchase**

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use during the year. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate, secure site that is not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel and disposed of in accordance with label directions and state regulations.

## **Pesticide applicators**

Any person applying pesticides in school buildings or on school grounds must be licensed by the state to apply pesticides and will be trained and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of IPM. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions and must comply with the School IPM Policy and pest management site plans.