

Model Pest Management Policy Statement for Florida Schools and Districts

Policy

It is the policy of this school district to implement Integrated Pest Management procedures to manage structural and landscape pests and to minimize exposure of children, faculty, and staff to pesticides.

Pests

It is the policy of this school district to manage pests in the school environment. Pests such as cockroaches, fleas, fire ants, stinging wasps, termites and rodents are annoying and can disrupt the learning environment in schools. Pests are known to bite, sting, or transmit diseases, and may also cause allergic responses.

Pesticides

It is the policy of this school district to reduce unnecessary exposure to pesticides in the school environment. When pesticides are used to manage pests in schools, there is potential for human exposure. Excessive exposure may result in pesticide poisoning or allergic responses in sensitive individuals. Children are more susceptible to pesticides than adults due to their smaller size and rapid growth and development. Their behavior may expose them to more pesticide residues.

Integrated Pest Management

To balance the risk of pests and pesticide use, it is the policy of this school district to employ principles of integrated pest management. Some of the major principles include,

- Communication with the school community about pest problems, pest conducive conditions, and pest management strategies.
- Monitoring and identification pests to verify a pest problem.
- Prevention of pest populations using such methods as sanitation, exclusion, and cultural practices.
- Targeted application of "least hazardous" pesticides only "as needed" and in inaccessible areas to correct verified problems.

Success

The success of IPM in schools is dependent upon:

- Full cooperation of administrators, faculty, maintenance/custodial staff, parents, and students.
- Establishment of a school district-wide IPM coordinator and advisory committee.
- School-based safety committees shall include pest management and pesticide policy as part of their agenda.
- Each school shall designate a staff member to coordinate the IPM program and maintain pest management records.