

Integrated Pest Management

Purpose

Vancouver School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning, working and playing environment for students, staff, families and users of district properties. To minimize potential risks in using pesticides in the school environment, the district adopts an Integrated Pest Management Policy (“IPM Policy”). The IPM Policy is intended to keep unwanted vegetation and pests at acceptable levels in effective, environmentally safe, and economical ways. The health and safety of our students, staff and families are our primary concern.

The Integrated Pest Management Program (“IPM Program”) is an ecological approach to controlling unwanted vegetation, plant diseases, and problem pest populations by the use of preventive and non-chemical methods of pest and vegetation management that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

I. Definitions

- A. For the purposes of this Policy, a “pest” includes any insect, rodent, nematode, snail, weed, fungus or other form of plant or animal life that adversely interferes with the aesthetic, health, safety, environmental or economic goals of the district. A pest does not include viruses or microorganisms on or in a living person or animal, but shall include plant diseases.
- B. The term “pesticide” includes any chemical agent registered as a pesticide by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, which can be a herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, or other chemical that repels, changes the regular growth rate of, kills, or otherwise reduces levels of a targeted pest or pests.
- C. The term “parent” includes parent, guardian and custodian.

II. Integrated Pest Management Practices

- A. Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) uses preventive and non-chemical methods of control first. These control methods are recorded, monitored, repeated when necessary, and evaluated to determine their degree of success. If the desired effect is not achieved, other alternative methods will be considered in each specific case. When alternative methods have been employed, evaluated and determined to be unsuccessful, as a last resort, chemical controls may be used in accordance with the Pesticide Use and Selection section of IPM Regulation 3625.
- B. The district will perform regular monitoring to determine if and when intervention is necessary and may employ physical, biological, and educational

tactics as primary controls to prevent intolerable damage or annoyance from pests. Least-toxic pesticides may be used as a last resort.

- C. The Pesticide Use and Selection section of IPM Regulation 3625 provides the criteria that determine what pesticides may be used. When pesticides are deemed necessary, the district will use the minimum effective amount of the least toxic pesticides, used in the manner with the least potential for human exposure. Applications will be timed to minimize exposure to students and staff and to minimize the pesticide's effect on the environment (including salmon streams, animal and bird populations, and beneficial organisms).
- D. Pest control activities will be conducted only after consideration is given to potential student exposure both outdoors and within buildings, as well as its effects on classroom activities.
- E. The district will work toward a composting practice to help improve soil quality and promote beneficial soil micro-organisms that will help ward off plant diseases and unwanted vegetation.
- F. When possible, and as resources permit, the district will implement pest control practices aimed at eliminating the causes of pest infestation, such as preventative practices, natural landscaping, soil improvements, and aeration.

Legal Reference: RCW 17.21 (Washington Pesticide Application Act)

Policy Adopted: March 25, 2002

VPS