

Integrated Pest Management Policy-

The Executive Director or designee shall develop and implement an integrated pest management program that incorporates effective least toxic pest management practices.

Integrated pest management is a strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as monitoring for pest presence and establishing treatment threshold levels, using non-chemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls. (Food and Agricultural Code 13181)

Procedures

In the control and/or management of pests at school facilities, the Executive Director or designee shall:

1. Carefully monitor and identify the pest and the site of infestation. Strategies for managing the pest shall be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property or the environment.
2. Consider a full range of possible alternatives. Such alternatives include not taking any action or controlling the pest by physical, mechanical, chemical, cultural or biological means.
3. Select non-chemical pest management methods over chemical methods, whenever they are effective to provide the desired control. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents.
4. Use the least toxic material when it is determined that a chemical method of pest management must be used. The least toxic material shall be chosen and applied in accordance with law.
5. Limit pesticide purchases to amounts needed for the year. Pesticides shall be stored at a secure location that is not accessible to students and unauthorized staff, and they shall be stored and disposed of in accordance with state regulations and label directions registered with the Environmental Protection Agency.
6. Ensure that persons applying pesticides follow label precautions and are trained in the principles and practices of integrated pest management.

Notification

The Executive Director or designee shall annually notify staff and parents/guardians of students enrolled at a school site, in writing, regarding pesticide products expected to be applied at the school facility in the upcoming year. The notification shall include at least the following: (Education Code 17612)

1. The Internet address used to access information on pesticides and pesticide use reduction developed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code 13184.
2. The name of each pesticide product expected to be applied in the upcoming year and the active ingredient(s) in it.
3. An opportunity for interested persons to register to receive notification of individual pesticide application at

the school site. The Executive Director or designee shall notify such registered persons of individual pesticide applications at least 72 hours prior to the application.

4. Other information deemed necessary by the Executive director or designee.

If a pesticide product not included in the annual notification is subsequently intended for use at the school site, the Executive Director or designee shall provide written notification of its intended use to staff and parents/guardians of students enrolled at the school, at least 72 hours prior to the application. (Education Code 17612)

Posting of Warning Signs

The Executive Director or designee shall post a warning sign at each area of the school site where pesticides will be applied, at least 24 hours prior to the application and until 72 hours after the application. The warning sign shall display the following: (Education Code 17612)

1. The term "Warning/Pesticide Treated Area".
2. The product name, manufacturer's name, and the Environmental Protection Agency's product registration number.
3. Intended areas and dates of application.
4. Reason for the pesticide application.

Notification During Emergency Conditions

Whenever the Executive Director or designee deems that the immediate use of a pesticide is necessary to protect the health and safety of students, staff, or other persons, or the school site, he/she shall make every effort to provide the required notifications prior to the application of a pesticide. In such a case, the warning sign shall be posted immediately upon application and shall remain posted until 72 hours after the application. (Education Code 17609, 17612)

Records

Each school site shall maintain records of all pesticide use at the school for four years, and shall make the information available to the public, upon request, in accordance with the California Public Records Act. Such records may be maintained by retaining a copy of the warning sign posted for each pesticide application with a recording of the amount of the pesticide used. (Education Code 17611)