

Integrated Pest Management Program

I. Policy Statement

Structural and landscape pests can pose a significant problem to people, property and the environment. Pesticides and herbicides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the Policy of Boerne ISD to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, microorganisms) that can interfere with the day-to-day operations of the Boerne ISD campuses. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to the students, staff, property, and/or the environment. Pest management plans will be developed for the Boerne ISD and will include pest management measures.

Pests will be managed to reduce any potential human health hazards to protect against a significant threat to public safety, to prevent damage to Boerne ISD structure or property, and to enhance the quality of life for students and staff.

The choice of using chemical pesticides will be based on a review of all other known options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or feasible. Cost or staffing consideration alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented, whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of Boerne ISD to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including no action will be considered. When it is determined that a pesticide or herbicide must be used in order to meet the pest management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen.

The IPM Coordinator, Administrator, and staff will be educated about the potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives.

The IPM Coordinator will maintain records of pesticide and herbicide use and will notify the Boerne ISD staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas at each site.

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

Pesticide applicators will be educated and trained in the principles and practices of integrated pest management and use of pesticides. They will follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators will be certified and comply with the Boerne ISD policy.

II. IPM Management

The IPM Coordinator will be trained through a Texas Structural Pest Control Service approved IPM Coordinator training course. The IPM Coordinator will design a pest management system and maintain IPM Policies. The IPM Coordinator is the person who observes and evaluates the site or directs others to do so and decides what needs to be done to achieve the site management objectives.

Boerne ISD will contract with a commercial pest control company(s) to meet the needs of the facility. The contractors will make detailed site-specific recommendations for structural and procedural modifications to achieve pest suppression. The contractor shall provide evidence of sufficient expertise in pest control and IPM principles and practices. With the exceptional specific pest problem, Boerne ISD employs full-time personnel to conduct pest management practices.

The Boerne ISD IPM program includes educating all that is involved in the program. This education should include the administrators, teachers and auxiliary staff.

III. Pest Management Objectives

- Manage pests that may occur on campus to prevent interference with the learning environment of the students
- Preserve the integrity of the buildings and structure
- Provide the safest playing or athletic surfaces possible

IV. IPM Cycle

- **INSPECTION** – Inspection of all facilities and grounds will be conducted monthly basis by district personnel or by pest management contractors. A detailed building inspection of each campus will be conducted annually to determine if the building has any conducive conditions for pests and to develop a list of structural and landscape improvements.
- **IDENTIFICATION** – Accurate identification of pest is a vital part of ensuring that proper control methods will be used. Local resources will be used to help in identification.
- **ACTION** – Habitat modifications, exclusions, repair, and sanitation efforts will be the first actions considered. Action threshold will be considered before any other actions are considered. Then action threshold will reflect how many pests can be tolerated for a specific site. The presence of some pests does not in itself necessarily require action.

- **EVALUATION** – If it is determined that further action is needed then there will be a follow up with an appropriate pesticide approved by the IPM Coordinator

V. Thresholds

A threshold is the boundary between a tolerable and an intolerable level of a pest. The higher the threshold, the more pests can be tolerated. Some level of pest presence, except in the cases of a few serious health or quarantined pests, can usually be tolerated. Thresholds can be multi-leveled and used to trigger different types of management actions, including actions other than pesticides.

Schools generally must develop their own thresholds. Threshold levels developed for a home or restaurant may be inappropriate for a school. Likewise, thresholds developed for high-visibility/high-maintenance landscapes will differ from those for medium- or low- maintenance landscapes. Research-determined thresholds are available for only a few pests, in part because humans, and managers, differ substantially in their tolerance of pest presence or damage. It's useful to set your own thresholds for common pests in your school district, especially for key pests.

Setting a zero tolerance for your school district is unattainable and not realistic for IPM. Instead, you can list what actions you would take for a specific pest like German cockroaches if you find one on a monitoring glue board. IPM strategies should give your staff guidelines of how to prevent pests and IPM plans should be how you will address specific pests within you district.

VI. IPM Strategies (General Guidelines)

INDOORS

Typical Pests: Mice, Rats, Cockroaches, Ants, Flies, Spiders, Termites, Micro-organisms

General guidelines should include:

- Entryways: Doorways, Overhead doors, Windows, and Openings around Pipes, Electrical fixtures, and Duct(s).
- Classrooms/Offices: Including Performance Halls, Gymnasiums, Hallways, Offices and Classrooms.
- Food Preparation and Serving Areas: Dining Hall, Kitchen, Teacher's Lounge, Vending Machine Areas, and Food Storage Rooms.
- Rooms with Extensive Plumbing: Bathrooms, Rooms with Sinks, Locker Rooms, Crawl spaces.

- Maintenance Areas: Mechanical Rooms, Custodial Closets, etc.

OUTDOORS

Typical Pests: Mice and rats. Turf pests such-as broadleaf and grassy weeds, turf and plant-destroying insects, and diseases of turf and plants.

General guidelines should include:

- Outside Perimeter: Parking Lot, Loading Dock, Refuse Dumpster.
- Turf: Lawns, Athletic Fields, Playgrounds.
- Ornamental Shrubs and Trees

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

In addition to the aforementioned strategies, The Boerne ISD will also adhere to a policy with regards to:

- Pesticide / Herbicide Applications
- The Storing of Pesticides
- Posting Notifications
- Evaluation and Recordkeeping

A more-specific definition of these strategies may be obtained from the IPM Coordinator.