

## **Solano County Office of Education Integrated Pest Management Policy**

### **School Pest Management Policy Statement**

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the policy of the Solano County Office of Education to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

### **Pests**

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with use of the school site for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment.

### **Pest Management**

Pests will be managed to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- Prevent loss of or damage to school structures or property.

### **Integrated Pest Management Procedures**

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, or cultural means. IPM practitioners depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen. The application of pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 United States Code 136 et seq.), County Office of Education procedures, Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and state and local regulations.

### **Record Keeping**

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained at the SCOE Facilities Office, 2460 Clay Bank Rd., Fairfield to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency.

### **Notification**

The Solano County Office of Education takes the responsibility to notify school staff, parents, and legal guardians of students of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas at school and sent home to parents who wish to be informed in advance of pesticide applications.

### **Pesticide Storage and Purchase**

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

### **Pesticide Applicators**

Pesticide applicators must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM and the use of pesticides, and they must follow regulations and label precautions. Applicators must be certified and comply with this County Office of Education IPM procedure and Pest Management Plan.