

GROESBECK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Pesticides pose risks to human health, property, and the environment. Structural and landscape pests can also pose a significant problem to people, property, and the environment. It is, therefore, the policy of the Groesbeck Independent School District (GISD) to practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). All aspects of the program will be in accordance with federal and Texas state laws and regulations as outlined in the Texas Administrative Code: Integrated Pest Management Program for School Districts (Rule 7.201 – 7.205).

IPM, or Integrated Pest Management, is an ecologically based strategy that focuses on pest prevention by combining techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, cultural practices, and the use of pesticides. Pesticide controls should only be used after monitoring indicates established pest thresholds. Pesticide products should be chosen and applied to reduce risks to human health, non-target organisms, and the environment.

Pests will be controlled to protect the health and safety of students and staff, to maintain the integrity of GISD structures and property, and to maintain a productive learning environment.

Use of Non-Chemical and Lower Risk Pesticides

Furthermore, the district's goal is to provide a safe and low-risk approach to controlling pest problems while protecting people, the environment, and property. The District's IPM Policy will focus on long-term prevention and give non-chemical methods first consideration when selecting appropriate control measures.

The choice of chemical pesticides will be based on a review of all other control options and a determination that these options will not provide adequate control of pests. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not justify the use of chemical control agents. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. GISD's

policy is 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 to meet the pest management goals, and the least hazardous material will be chosen.

IPM Coordinator

The administration of this program will be conducted by an IPM Coordinator appointed by the district. The IPM Coordinator will be designated by the school district superintendent and registered with the Texas Department of Agriculture. The IPM Coordinator will obtain all required training and licensing per Texas state rules and regulations. The IPM Coordinator will be responsible for educating district personnel about the District's IPM policy, their roles and responsibilities in a successful IPM program. The IPM Coordinator and District Superintendent will maintain the district's IPM policy.

Record Keeping

The IPM Coordinator will maintain records of pesticide and herbicide applications, pest inspection reports, pesticide complaints, and all other records pertaining to the IPM program. The coordinator will also notify GISD staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas at each site. The IPM records will be kept in a binder in the coordinator's office, scanned, and stored electronically.

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 determines what steps are needed to achieve the site management objectives.

Pesticide applicators will be educated and trained in the principles and practices of integrated pest management and the use of pesticides. They will follow regulations and label precautions. Pesticide applicators will be licensed by the

Texas Department of Agriculture and comply with the GISD IPM policy. Only licensed pesticide applicators are allowed to apply pesticides on school district property.

GISD may contract with a licensed commercial pest control company(s) to meet the facility's needs. 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.

Method of IPM Control

THRESHOLDS – Before taking corrective action, IPM first sets an action threshold. At this point, pest populations or environmental conditions indicate corrective action must be taken. The higher the threshold, the more pests can be tolerated. Some level of pest presence, except for a few serious health risks, can usually be tolerated.

**GROESBECK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR STAFF AND TEACHERS**

This District prohibits the possession, storing, or application of any kind of pesticide on school premises, or as part of any of the District's activities by unauthorized personnel.

A pesticide is defined as a substance or mixture of substances intended for destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. (This includes items like glue boards, fly traps, and cans of household insecticides.) A pest is any living thing that exists where it is not wanted. [As defined by the School IPM Regulation]

If you would like a copy of the district's IPM policy statement, this can be found in the Superintendent's Office or with the District's IPM Coordinator, Kevin Hutchison, Maintenance Department.

Employees who violate this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

Employee Signature

Date

Please sign this copy and return to Personnel. Keep a copy for your records.