

Socorro Independent School District

Policy Statement for Integrated Pest Management in Schools (IPM)

*Revised by School Board April 17, 2007
Rafael Padilla appointed IPM Coordinator by School Board April 17, 2007*

A. 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 Socorro Independent School District to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

B. Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that interfere with the use of a 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.

C. Pest Management

Approved pest management plans should be developed for the site and should include any proposed pest management measures.

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.
- Prevent pests from spreading into the community, or to plant and animal populations beyond the site.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others.

D. Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM procedures will determine the utilization of chemical and non-chemical strategies to achieve environmentally safe and affective control objectives. Individuals practicing IPM depend on current, comprehensive information on the pest, the environment, and the best available pest control methods. Applying IPM principles prevents unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. Further, applying such principles minimize the possibility for hazard exposure to people, property, and the environment.

The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all available options. A solution will be determined based on the feasibility of the option selected. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. Moreover, selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide desired control. It is the policy of the Socorro Independent School District 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 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 (United States Code 136 et seq.), SISD policies and procedures, Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and state and local regulations.

E. Education

Staff, students, pest managers, and the public will be educated about potential school pest problems, and the SISD IPM policies and procedures to be used in achieving the desired pest management objectives.

F. Record Keeping

Records of pesticide use shall be maintained on site to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and School Board. Records must be current and accurate if IPM is to work. In addition, pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments. These "Pest Sighting" sheets should be maintained in the IPM binder located at each campus. The binder should be stored in an area that is readily accessible for those needing to view its contents. (Main office is recommended).

G. Notification

The Socorro Independent School District takes the responsibility of notifying school personnel and students of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas visible to the public, as well as in the SISD Student Code of Conduct booklet issued to each SISD student at yearly registration. Additionally, Consumer Information Sheets will also be posted and available to any individual upon request.

H. Pesticide/Herbicide Storage and Purchase

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

I. Pesticide Applicators

Pest applicators must be educated and trained in the principles and practices of IPM, follow regulations and label precautions, and adhere to the use of pesticides approved by the Socorro Independent School District. Additionally, applicators should be certified and comply with the SISD IPM Policy and Pest Management Plan.

ADDENDUM A

A. Procedure for reporting pest problems:

Our objective is to provide the best service possible in relation to pest control on each campus. It is our goal to respond within 24 hours upon receipt of the work order. In order to help us maintain quality pest control service for each campus, please follow these guidelines when requesting service.

1. Initiate work order for Pest Control.
2. Notify the IPM Coordinator at 937-0700 of work order.

B. General Requirements

1. Garbage containers, including dumpsters, should be placed no closer than 20 feet to any building.
2. Possession of insecticides or pesticides (in any form) on school premises is strictly prohibited. Absolutely no exceptions!
3. Storage and/or consumption of food in any classroom is strictly prohibited.
4. All windows and doors without screens should remain closed as a mechanical means of preventing pest entry.
5. Garbage from all rooms, including cafeteria, should be properly disposed of everyday.
6. Any water leak should be reported immediately. Pests not only need food and harborage to survive, but water as well. Report any torn screen, crack or crevice to any surface where pests could enter dwelling.

ADDENDUM A (Cont'd)

7. Limit storage of cardboard and place all cardboard in recycling containers. Cardboard storage is a prime location for cockroach reproduction. Limitations should also include the storage of food product in cafeteria storage room and supply product in custodial storage room. Pests are also transported in boxes from location to location.
8. Trash liners should be used on all containers used for trash, in particular, those used to hold food and drink items. Keep containers clean and free of any food particles, including syrup from soda spills.

C. Pest control threshold limits

Campus personnel should request pest control service ONLY if the specific pest problem exceeds the following threshold limits:

	Pest	Threshold
1.	Ants	5 or more
2.	Bees / Wasps	2 or more
3.	Large Roach	2 or more
4.	German Roach (small)	One
5.	Black Widow Spider	One
6.	Brown Recluse Spider	One
7.	All other Spiders	2 or more
8.	Mice	1 or more

ADDENDUM B

A. IPM Campus Binder

1. All pertinent information involving IPM should be stored in the campus binder.
2. Binder should remain readily accessible. It is highly recommended that it be stored in the main office.
3. All pest sightings must be recorded in the pest -sighting log. Technician will verify need for treatment by checking pest log upon arrival.
4. All service invoices must be initialed by campus personnel verifying that service was provided. Invoices must remain in binder for a duration of one year.

B. Emergency Waiver Forms

1. Regular monthly treatments do not require an emergency waiver form.
2. An Emergency Waiver Form is required EVERY TIME the school is treated in between regular monthly treatments. (Staple to back of invoice and place in binder).
3. Emergency waivers requiring approval for a GREEN or YELLOW list product may be signed by campus personnel and does not require approval from IPM Coordinator.
4. Emergency waivers requiring approval for a RED list product may not be signed at the campus level and requires IPM Coordinator approval.

C. Required Postings

1. Consumer Information Sheet (CIS):
Should be posted adjacent to the Notice of Pest Control Treatment form in a location visible to all students, staff, and visitors.
2. Notice of Pest Control:
Should be posted adjacent to the Consumer Information Sheet in a location visible to all students, staff, and visitors.

ADDENDUM C

A. Bee Emergency Treatment Procedure

Bees, if agitated, pose a potentially dangerous situation to everyone in the surrounding area. Please follow these steps when encountering a situation involving bees within the school premises.

1. Secure area where hive is located using yellow CAUTION tape. Take measures to monitor the area ensuring students do not agitate bees.
2. Initiate work order for Pest Control and call the IPM Coordinator immediately at 937-0700.
3. For after hour bee emergencies, notify the fire department at 911.

B. Pigeon / Bird Control

Pigeons pose a health hazard for students, staff, and visitors within a school facility. Problems should be reported immediately. An assessment will be conducted thereafter to determine if treatment is deemed necessary.

C. Flies & other flying pests

Control of flies using a chemical method is extremely difficult and is not an option for treatment of flies and other flying insects. Precautions should be taken to ensure that doors, windows, and other openings are secured. Mechanical solutions may be available upon assessment of the situation. Aside from glue boards and fly swatters, prevention remains the best solution.

D. OTHER: Bats, dogs, cats, owls, etc.

Cases involving anything in this category should be addressed directly to Animal Control at 842-1001.