

# **Integrated Pest Management**

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**The Mason City Schools Board of Education is committed to providing students with a safe learning environment free of pests, pesticides and other harmful chemicals, through adoption of an integrated pest management (IPM) program. The goals of the district's IPM program are to:**

- 1) **Provide** the healthiest learning environment possible by preventing unnecessary exposure of students and staff to toxic pesticides
- 2) **Promote** safer alternatives to chemical pesticides while preventing economic and health damage caused by pests
- 3) **Ensure** that clear and accurate notification concerning the use of pesticides is given so that measures may be taken to prevent and address pest problems effectively without endangering the health of those within the school building
- 4) **Reduce** the need for reliance on chemical pesticides

**The MCS Board of Education directs school administration to develop regulations that detail cost-effective strategies that reduce the use of pesticides which are posing health risks to students and staff. The regulations must include procedures for the following:**

- Identification of pests and the conditions which attract them
- Prevention and monitoring techniques
- Education and training
- Use of approved chemical having the least amount of toxicity
- Pre-notification of chemical use

**In order to keep the facilities and grounds safe, the administration may investigate a variety of chemical and nonchemical methods designed to control pests effectively while minimizing potential exposure to students and staff.**

**IPM Manager:** Jean-Jacques Desfosses  
Technical Coordinator Safe and Inviting Schools

**IPM Contact:** Jerry Pennington  
Building and Grounds Assistant Supervisor

- 1) All pest problems are reported to the Maintenance Dept., and then assigned to the IPM Manager for investigation.
- 2) The IPM Manager and the IPM Contact work cooperatively in determining the best approach to eliminate the source of the pest problem, and also to eliminate the pest without the use of chemicals, when possible, thereby reducing the economic and health risk to the school.
- 3) Records are kept at the Maintenance Dept. office for 1 year. If pesticides/herbicides are used, the vendor then keeps a record of the event for 3 years.
- 4) IPM records are analyzed biannually as part of a continuous improvement strategy, in order to reduce the use of chemicals in the school environment.