



*"Inspire learners, Integrate sustainability,
Involve community"*

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64

POLICY 3700 Pest Management

Section: Health and Safety
Dates of Revisions: May 9, 2007
Date of Adoption and
Resolution Number: June 13, 2018 -76/18

Rationale:

The BC Ministry of Environment, by way of its Integrated Pest Management Regulation, ensures that pest management in provincial schools is directed and performed by knowledgeable and properly trained and licensed personnel. An ecologically-based approach to pest management recognizes the interrelated nature of air, land, water and living organisms, and promotes environmental sustainability.

Definitions:

- 1. 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 in question and the degree to which that species poses a threat to people, property, or the environment.
- 2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** involves an effective and environmentally sensitive decision-making process. It relies on a combination of common-sense practices based on understanding of the life cycles of pests and their interactions with the environment. It involves:
 - a. planning and managing ecosystems to prevent organisms from becoming pests
 - b. identifying potential pest problems;
 - c. monitoring populations of pests and beneficial organisms, pest damage and environmental conditions;
 - d. using injury thresholds in making treatment decisions;
 - e. reducing pest populations to acceptable levels using strategies that may include a combination of biological, physical, cultural, mechanical, behavioural and chemical controls;
 - f. evaluating the effectiveness of treatments.

3. The word **pesticide** is an umbrella term for all the subcategories of materials used to suppress pests. These include insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides and herbicides.

4. Approved **pest management plans** will be developed for the site and will include any proposed pest management measures. Pests will be managed to:

- a. Reduce any potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.
- b. Prevent loss of or damage to school structures or property.
- c. Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others

Policy:

The School District No. 64 Board of Education is committed to working in partnership with the community to sustain healthy and safe school grounds and buildings by promoting behaviour and practices that minimizes potential pest problems, and effectively treats them when they occur. Because effective and environmentally sound stewardship is a fundamental component of maintenance management within school district boundaries,

- a. ministerial guidelines will be followed, in keeping with the IPMR;
- b. practices involving the non-essential use of pesticides will be avoided;
- c. preference will be given to non-pesticide alternatives

Consistent with the precautionary principle (that absence of certainty is reason for inaction) and in keeping with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) national strategy to encourage responsible use and reduction of pesticides, alternative approaches not involving pesticides will be used wherever such use do not compromise the health and safety of school community members.

References:

- BC Ministry of Environment, Integrated Pest Management Regulation (rev. July, 2016)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Strategy on Pesticides