

ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL (AMCS) INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

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

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 have been met. Pesticide products should be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes 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 AMCS structures and property, and to maintain a productive learning environment.

Use of Non-Chemical and Lower Risk Pesticides

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

The choice of using chemical pesticides will be based on a review of all other control options and a determination that these control options will not provide adequate control of pests. Cost or staffing consideration alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented, whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of AMCS 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, the least hazardous material will be chosen.

IPM Coordinator

The administration of this program will be conducted by a district appointed IPM Coordinator. 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 and what their roles and responsibilities are in a successful IPM program. AMCS's IPM policy will be maintained by the IPM Coordinator and District Superintendent.

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 IPM Coordinator will notify AMCS staff and students of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas at each site. IPM records will be kept in a binder in the IPM coordinators office. The IPM records will also be scanned and stored electronically.

District Personnel Training

The AMCS IPM program includes educating all that are involved in the program. IPM training will be provided to school administrators, teachers, and auxiliary staff through in person presentations and monthly emails that will provide information regarding seasonal pest and the schools IPM approach to control them.

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 AMCS IPM policy. Only licensed pesticide applicators are allowed to apply pesticides on school property.

AMCS may contract with a licensed commercial pest control company(s) to meet the needs of the facility. 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. This is a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate corrective action must be taken. The higher the threshold the more pest can be tolerated. Some level of pest presence, except in the case of a few serious health risks can usually be tolerated. Please refer to the following chart for established action thresholds.

Pest	Kitchen	Classrooms/offices	Nurse office	Exterior grounds
Ants, common	3/room	10-12/room	3/room	Moderate ant trails
Fire ants	3/room	3/room	3/room	1 mound
Cockroaches	1/room	3/room	1/room	If noticeable or invading
Rats or mice	1/room	1/room	1/room	Any activity
Bees, honey	1/room	1/room	1/room	If threat to children
Weeds	n/a	n/a	n/a	15% in 100 ft

MONITORING – Exterior inspection of all schools will be conducted on a bi-monthly basis by district personnel or by pest management contractors. Interior inspections of school cafeterias will be conducted monthly. Monitoring devices will be placed inside cafeterias to determine pest pressure and when corrective action is needed. Monitoring devices will be placed in non-food handling areas on an “as needed basis.” A detailed building inspection of each campus will be conducted annually to determine if the building has any conducive conditions for pests and to develop a list of structural and landscape improvements.

IDENTIFICATION – Accurate identification of pest is a vital part of ensuring that proper control methods are used. If needed, local resources will be used to help with the identification of pests.

ACTION – Habitat modifications, exclusions, repair, and sanitation efforts will be the first actions considered. Action thresholds will be considered before any corrective measures are taken. Action thresholds will reflect how many pests can be tolerated for a specific site. The presence of some pests does not in itself necessarily require action.

EVALUATION – If it is determined that further action is needed, then there will be a follow up treatment with an appropriate pesticide approved by the IPM Coordinator.

AMCS Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

School Responsibilities for Pest Control in the School Environment

Texas law requires all school districts to adopt an integrated pest management program (IPM) and to designate an IPM Coordinator to manage the implementation of the IPM program. 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 have been met. Pesticide products should be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, non-target organisms, and the environment.

For additional information <https://texasagriculture.gov/Regulatory-Programs/Pesticides/Structural-Pest-Control-Service/School-Integrated-Pest-Management>

AMCS designates and authorizes the following person as the IPM Coordinator to be responsible for the charter school's pest control practices.

Name:	Flor Benitez
Position:	Office Manager
Address:	12013 6 th St Houston, TX 77072
Telephone:	(281) 530-9406



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School Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

School District Responsibilities for Pest Control in the School Environment

Texas law requires all school districts to adopt an integrated pest management program (IPM) and to designate an IPM Coordinator to manage the implementation of the IPM program. 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 have been met. Pesticide products should be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, non-target organisms, and the environment.

Guidelines for implementing your school's IPM program can be found in Division 7 section 7.201 through 7.205 of the Texas administrative code. Additional guidance regarding IPM practices can be found at the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension School IPM website and EPA's Integrated Pest Management website. These Rules and IPM practices will help your school district implement a compliant and successful IPM program.

Each school district IPM program shall contain the following (see Rule 7.201)

- A school board approved IPM policy
- A monitoring program with established thresholds to justify corrective action
- Preferential use of non-chemical strategies and low risk pesticides for the control of pests
- A system to maintain records of all pest control related activities
- A plan for educating and informing school district employees of their roles in the IPM program
- A school district appointed IPM Coordinator to implement the school district's IPM program

Essential responsibilities of IPM Coordinator (see Rule 7.202)

- Responsible for implementing school district IPM program
- Complete an approved IPM coordinator training course within six months of appointment
- Obtain six hours of IPM continuing education units every three years
- Ensure that all IPM records are maintained for a period of two years and are made available to a Department inspector upon request

Pesticide Classification

All pesticides used by school districts must be registered with the United States Environmental protection agency and the Texas Department of Agriculture with the exception of those pesticides that have been exempted from registration by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). All pesticides products used on school district property must be categorized as "Green", "Yellow", or "Red" pesticides. Anytime a pesticide product is used on school district property strict adherence must be given to the product label and the pesticide category definition prescribed in Rule 7.204 of the Texas Administrative Code. Please see Division 7 of the Texas Administrative Code for complete IPM Program rules and regulations.

Compliance with the Structural Pest Control Act

Compliance with the Structural Pest Control Act TDA's Structural Pest Control Service (SPCS) is responsible for ensuring that all Texas school districts comply with the Structural Pest Control Act. SPCS Representatives may routinely, or in response to a complaint, investigate a school district to determine whether it is in compliance with the SPCS Act.

Resources

- FAQs
- What is IPM
- Sample IPM Policy
- Ag Education at School Districts Policy Paper

Links

- Forms ...
- School IPM Information (A&M)
- School IPM Forms
- Pest Management Plans
- Pest Control in Schools (EPA)
- IPM How-To Manual (EPA)
- National IPM Toolbox (U. of FL.)
- Texas Poison Center



