



West Orange Public Schools
179 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
(973) 669-5400 ext. 20512 Fax (973) 669-1432

Superintendent of Schools

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.

2019-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff:

In accordance with a regulation adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we are hereby notifying you of our pest control policy.

Public Act 99-165 requires that any person applying pesticides on the grounds of or in public schools must be licensed as a pesticide applicator. The act also requires that schools notify parents or guardians of enrolled children and staff of their pest control policy, and to inform you that you may register for notice of pesticide applications at your school.

West Orange has adopted a model plan developed by the DEP Pesticide Management Program in accordance with CGS Section 22a-66. The model follows a program called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control that takes into consideration all pests require certain conditions to survive. Pests can often be kept at or below an acceptable level without the use of pesticides by modifying conditions.

Although West Orange has adopted an IPM program, we are required to inform you that you may register for notice of pesticide applications at your school. This means you will be notified prior to a pesticide application. It is important to note that if and when pesticide application is necessary, it is done after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday. The application is done in strict accordance with DEP guidelines using licensed contractors. If you wish to be notified of pesticide applications at your school, please complete the enclosed form and return it to your school's main office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Scott Cascone".

J. Scott Cascone, Ed. D.
Superintendent

WHAT IS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)?

The legal definition for IPM from New Jersey State regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:30-1: Integrated pest management, or IPM, means a sustainable approach to managing pests by using all appropriate technology and management practices in a way that minimizes health, environmental and economic risks. IPM includes, but is not limited to, monitoring pest populations, consumer education, and when needed, cultivation practices, sanitation, solid waste management, structural maintenance, physical, mechanical, biological and chemical controls.

IPM is a thoughtful, holistic approach to controlling pests that uses a wide variety of tools such as sanitation, structural modifications and other management techniques rather than automatically turning to chemical controls as a first option. Pesticide use is an important tool in the pest control "toolbox" but an effective IPM program can greatly reduce reliance on chemical controls. In a typical IPM program, pertinent information about a pest is combined with careful selection of suitable management techniques to eliminate the causes of pest outbreaks or to otherwise manage the pest in an economical manner that also represents the lowest possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The School IPM Act adds another aspect to the decision-making process for controlling pests as described above. When a school decides after considering all available pest control options, that pesticide use is needed, the law indicates that preference should be given to using a "low impact" pesticide. This term is explained in detail later in this manual.

Aside from the fact that state law mandates IPM in New Jersey schools, there are a number of potential health and economic benefits to schools. Reducing the potential for pesticide exposure to children is the driving force behind the School IPM Act. Children are more vulnerable to the effects of pesticides than adults. The school environment is therefore an ideal place to reduce the potential for pesticide exposure through an IPM program. In addition, pests have their own set of acknowledged risks to personal health, property, and the food supply. An effective IPM program can manage the risks from both pesticide and pest, and protect human health by:

- ▶ reducing student and staff exposure to pesticides
- ▶ suppressing pests that may carry or vector allergens or disease pathogens
- ▶ reducing environmental pollution

Implementing IPM may provide cost savings and other economic benefits by:

- ▶ reducing pest damage
- ▶ reducing unnecessary pesticide applications
- ▶ minimizing emergency repairs
- ▶ improving maintenance and sanitation
- ▶ reducing waste caused by infested food products