

## **P: 7-3.7 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

The Woonsocket Education Department recognizes the importance of Integrated Pest Management by taking an environmentally sensitive approach for preventative as well as responsive practices. Therefore, it is the policy of the Woonsocket Education Department to recognize and treat a potential pest problem with the least amount of chemicals and eliminating the source as part of our in-house program as well as treatments by our licensed pest contractor. Woonsocket Education Department shall only allow pesticide applications to be performed either by school staff holding a valid Commercial Pesticide License or certification or contract with a pest control company, whose employees are licensed or certified to perform pest control services. The application of any pesticide is subject to all federal, state and local regulations.

### Definition of Pests:

Pests are populations of living organisms – animals, plants, or microorganisms – that can interfere with the use of the school site(s) for human purposes. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species, habitation, and whether that species poses a threat to people, property or environment.

### Reasons for Pest Management:

Reduce potential human health hazard or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.  
Prevent loss or damage to school structures and/or property.  
Prevent pest from spreading into surrounding areas.  
Maintain healthy environmental quality for students, staff and others.

Integrated Pest Management procedures determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, cultural, or chemical application, if any. Cost of staffing, chemicals, or methods alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents. Pesticide purchases, when necessary, will be limited to the amount needed for each application and will be stored in an appropriate secured area not accessible to students or unauthorized personnel. No pesticide shall be applied within any building or on the grounds of any school during regular school hours or during planned activities at any school, except for an emergency application to eliminate an immediate threat to human health. Storage and disposal will be in compliance with the EPA registered label directions and state regulations.

This policy will be made available to staff, students, pest managers and public about potential school pest problems and the Integrated Pest Management procedures used to achieve the desired objectives. Records of pesticides used shall be maintained in each school office and at the Facilities Office located in the Administration Building, located at 108 High Street Woonsocket, RI.

School staff and students will be notified annually of scheduled inspections and pesticide treatments other than normal exterminating services. Each school in the Woonsocket Education Department shall maintain a registry of persons requesting pre-notification of pesticide application Notices will be sent home, by any means practical, to the parents, guardians of any child enrolled at such school and to the staff of such school not later than one (1) week after such application.

Questions and/or concerns regarding this policy may be sent to the Director of Facilities at 108 High Street.