

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY**

The following measures shall be used in order to promote safe and healthful school environments:

1. Maintenance staff shall be trained in the location, identification, proper cleaning and ongoing maintenance of asbestos-containing materials and in the removal and decontamination of small amounts of such materials when needed to repair pipes or perform similar duties. Any more extensive asbestos abatement work shall be done by state-certified asbestos abatement contractors in compliance with state and federal standards.
2. Renovation or construction shall be carefully scheduled so as to reduce exposure to contaminants. Sources of contamination shall be identified and controlled, and building occupants shall be isolated from the construction area.
3. Principals shall enforce school rules designed to:
  - a. Prevent the accumulation of flammable, noxious or otherwise dangerous materials unless adequate safeguards are provided.
  - b. Keep stage and auditorium areas free of debris.
  - c. Keep walkways at all times open to pedestrian traffic and clear of debris or other obstructions.
  - d. Maintain good housekeeping and repair as a means of controlling pests.
4. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the following measures are taken in order to reduce indoor air contaminants:
  - a. Operate, inspect and maintain heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems in accordance with law, including annually inspecting school buildings to ensure they have adequate ventilation systems, properly maintained, so as to preclude the buildup of mold, mildew, and indoor air contaminants.
  - b. Limit indoor painting of school buildings to those weeks when school is not in session.
  - c. Use low-emission cleaning products whenever possible, and perform custodial duties that require the use of strong cleaning fluids after classes are dismissed for the weekend.
  - d. Use and store paints, adhesives and solvents in well-ventilated areas.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY** (continued)

## 5. Pest Management

**Objective**

Consistent with the Board Policy BP 3514, the District will eliminate or reduce pests that:

- a. Encroach on the health or safety of students, staff, or public
- b. Interfere with the educational program
- c. Jeopardize structural integrity and the preservation of capital assets
- d. Adversely affect the appearance of facilities and grounds

**Management Methods**

The following management methods can be selected as appropriate to meet the objective of the Pest Management Program:

Exclusion: The first line of defense for a structure is the exclusion of pests from entering the structure. Exclusion also includes preventing pests that get inside the structure from gaining access to moisture, food or harborage. Typical exclusion remedies are caulking cracks and crevices, repairing holes in walls and masonry, providing tight food storage. For landscape sites, equipment and vehicles that move between infested and uninfested areas should be thoroughly cleaned so as to not transport weed seed. Soil, gravel or seed used on school sites should be certified as weed-free.

Habitat Modification: Habitat modification is a term used to describe changes made to a site in order to reduce the number of pests the site can support. Living organisms need to have air, water or moisture, food or nutrients, adequate temperature, secure hiding or resting places, and for plants-light. These things make up the habitat of a site. By manipulating the access or availability of these necessities, the "habitat" can be modified to such an extent that the site is no longer attractive to the pest, or the site no longer supports the pest's life. Habitat modification can take many forms and is usually directed toward the "life style" of a specific pest to be managed.

Sanitation: Sanitation includes removing food, water and harborage from access by pests, and also removing or killing pathogens that may be present as a result of pest activity or other organisms. Sanitation is of critical importance in food handling or food service facilities. Kitchens must have quality maintenance, housekeeping and sanitation.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY** (continued)

Cultural: Cultural methods use vegetation species that are competitive to pest plants (weeds) that are being managed. Well established, dense plant materials that shade or out-compete weeds for moisture or nutrients are effective. Utilizing appropriate mowing or pruning practices enhances cultural methods. Other cultural methods may include frequency or amount of watering, frequency of mowing and mowing height, plant material selection and pruning practices. Deep mulching of planting beds and selection of appropriate or low maintenance plant material are also effective cultural methods.

Mechanical: Mechanical methods include mowing, pruning, de-thatching, aerating, weed whipping, hoeing, and other measures which use mechanical tools for reducing growth or eliminating plant material. This method can also include using mechanical traps such as snap traps, MacAbee traps for gophers or other rodents, live catch cage traps, pitfall traps, glue boards or hanging attractive traps for bees, flies and yellow jackets. Air doors, light traps and electrocutors are other examples of mechanical pest management methods.

Pesticides: Pesticides will be carefully evaluated by the IPM Coordinator prior to use and will be applied with caution to prevent exposure to students, staff and the public. Regulatory notification, posting, and record keeping requirements must be followed.

**REGULATORY – NOTIFICATION, POSTING, RECORDING**

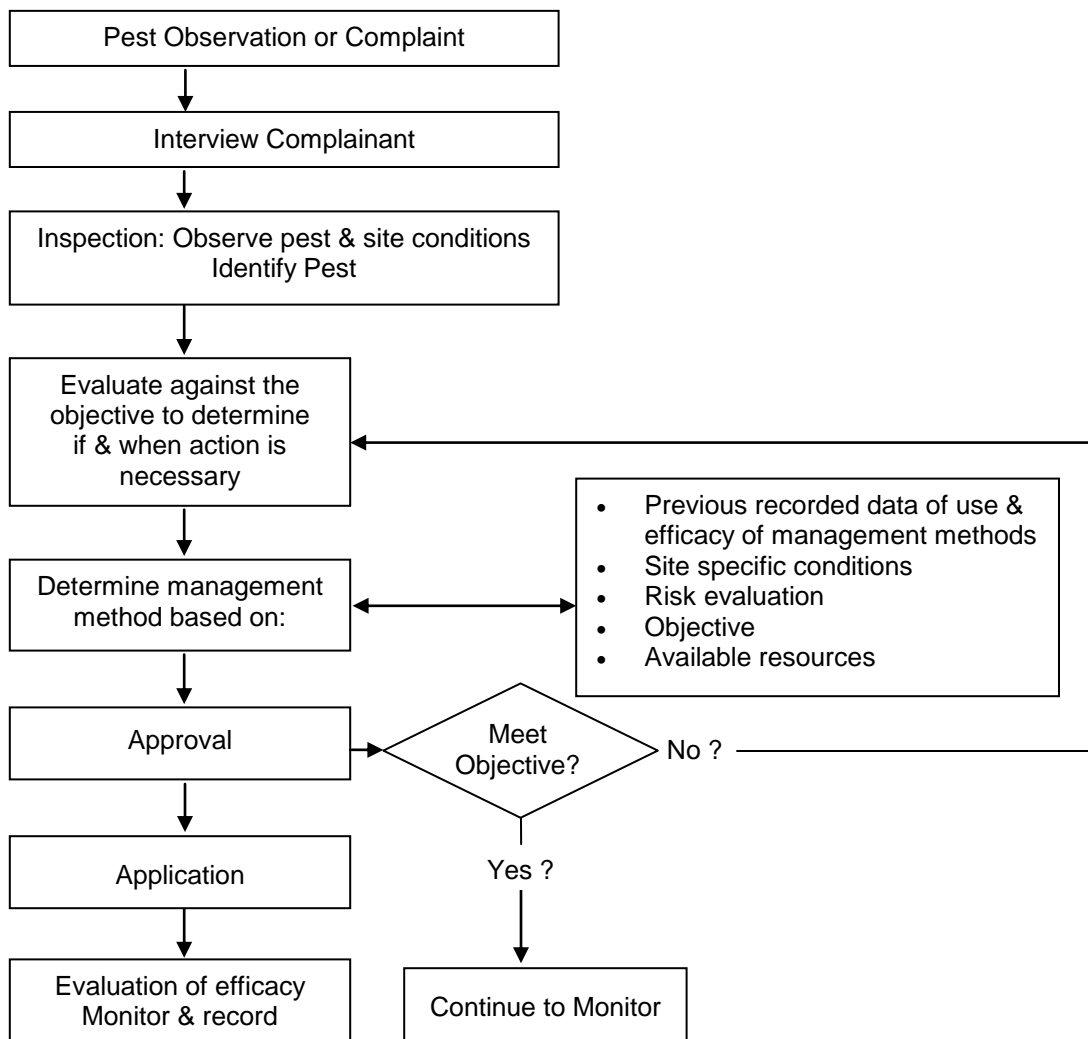
In compliance with the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 and Education Code Sections 17608-17613, the following requirements will be adhered to:

- Provide annual written notification of all pesticide products which may be used in the upcoming school year to all school staff, parents/guardians.
- Provide an opportunity for staff and parents/guardians to register with the school district to be notified of individual pesticide applications before they occur.
- The school district shall post warning signs at each area of the school where pesticides will be applied. Signs will be posted 24 hours ahead and until 72 hours after the treatment is made.
- Each school will maintain records of all pesticide use at that school for four (4) years and make these records available to the public upon request.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY** (continued)

The Healthy Schools Act and the Food and Agriculture Code Section 13186 require that licensed pest control businesses shall report pesticide applications at each school to the Department of Pesticide Regulation annually.

**DECISION PROCESS TO DETERMINE PEST MANAGEMENT METHOD**



Regulation approved: April 18, 1990  
 revised: October 13, 1994  
 revised: June 15, 2004

**MURRIETA VALLEY USD**  
 Murrieta, California