



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

1. **Q. What is Integrated Pest Management, commonly called “IPM”?**

A. IPM is a decision-making process that uses all available pest management strategies to prevent economically damaging pest outbreaks while reducing risks to human health and the environment. IPM is a continuum along which there are many levels of adoption. It can range from simple monitoring (inspecting) to properly timed pesticide use. Regular monitoring, recordkeeping (pest sighting logging), good maintenance and proper sanitation are key components of an IPM program.

\* For more information regarding IPM in schools, click on <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>

The goal of IPM program is to protect human health by:

- suppressing pests that may carry diseases
- reduce pest damage
- reduce environmental pollution
- reduce human exposure to pesticides

2. **Q. How is IPM regulated in DPS?**

A. DPS' IPM program was developed to comply with the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Regulation No's 636 and 637. Our IPM plan consists of all elements described in Rule #14 of Regulation No. 637 of Pesticide Use. All pesticide usage is regulated by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994, Part 83-Pesticide Control.

3. **Q. How pest control is performed in DPS facilities?**

A. Pest control services are performed by State of Michigan Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicators managed by Professional Pest Control Operators.

4. **Q. How can staff and students assist in preventing pest problems?**

A. **Leave pest control and pest management to trained professionals!**

- Document pest sightings in school's IPM Book.
- Contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety @ 578-7150
- Avoid leaving food in lockers
- Keep lockers free of clutter
- Do not place gum under desks and chairs.

5. **Q. How often are schools inspected for pest?**

A. Elementary Schools and Middle Schools are inspected once per month.

- Middle Schools **designated as base food service kitchens** and High Schools are inspected twice per month.

6. **Q. What can staff and students do to support the IPM program?**

A.

- Keep food stored in rodent-proof containers.
- Keep exterior doors closed when not in use.
- Dispose of trash and garbage on a frequent and regular basis and pick-up/eliminate clutter.
- Deny rodents access to moisture (e.g. mop closets, boiler rooms, catch basins under potted plants).
- Mow lawn frequently and remove dense shrubbery to a distance of at least 100 ft. from the school.
- Students should eat in designated food service areas only.
- Do not store food in lockers.
- Check and replace damaged door sweeps as needed to ensure all gaps and openings under doors are sealed

7. **Q. Who monitors the IPM program?**

A. The IPM program is monitored by DPS' Department of Environmental Health and Safety. The designated manager for the IPM program is a Program Supervisor with the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. This individual is responsible for coordinating pest management activities in conjunction with the district's contracted Pest Control Operators.

8. **Q. Who should receive the Annual Pesticide Application Notification Letter?**

A. At the beginning of each new school year, the district via the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, will distribute a district-wide Business Memorandum to Principals and Building Administrators to apprise them of the "Scheduled Pesticide Application Advisory" form to be distributed to Parents and Guardians.

The “Scheduled Pesticide Application “form should be completed by those Parents/Guardians who wish to be notified prior to any pesticide application at their child’s school. The name(s) of all respondents who wish to be notified must be maintained in a school-based registry located in the Principal’s Office.

This notification, under the Department of Agriculture’s Reg. #637, is intended to inform persons (students/staff ) who may be particularly sensitive to pesticide, 48 hours in advance of the application. **NOTE:** Spray applications of pesticides do not take place when students are present!

**9. Q. Can I purchase an over-the counter ready to use pesticide (i.e. Raid) and spray my classroom?**

A. Absolutely not! The Detroit Public Schools strictly prohibits any staff person to use a pesticide of any kind, in or around their schools. The only people who can apply pesticide in or around our schools are the district’s two (2) contracted Professional Pest Control Companies.