

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Home School
IPM
Pest Management

A+ Schools – getting everyone involved in the IPM program

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3 Emphasis areas for IPM effectiveness

Minimizes pest management risks

Common sense sanitation and maintenance steps minimize food, water and shelter pests need to thrive.

Everyone plays a role in IPM – they must know how to do their part.

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Keys to Successful School IPM Program

Each Key influences the others

Education

Re-entry

Notification

Pesticide Categories

Licensed Applicators

Monitoring Inspections

Policy Point Person

Pest Control Policy



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IPM Coordinator's job



A trained IPM coordinator provides leadership to the whole district's or campus's IPM program.

- Writes, manages, and implements IPM policy approved by school board
- Drafts IPM implementation plan
- Directs pest management practices for common problems
- Provides training on IPM
- Provides regular communication

IPM Coordinator should provide these groups with training in how to prevent pest problems:


- School administrators
- Teachers and aides
- Food service staff
- Custodial and maintenance staff
- Students
- STEM
- School Gardens
- Nurses & Health aides
- Parents






Important Players in IPM Policy

Each of these groups play an important role in making IPM work in your school.

Regular communication will help them take responsibility as part of a pest-free school community.





School district roles & responsibilities

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    graph LR
      A[Superintendent appoints IPM Coordinator] --> B[Report IPM Coordinator's name and contact information to the state]
      B --> C[Designate "Responsible IPM Coordinator" if more than 1 Coordinator in district]
  
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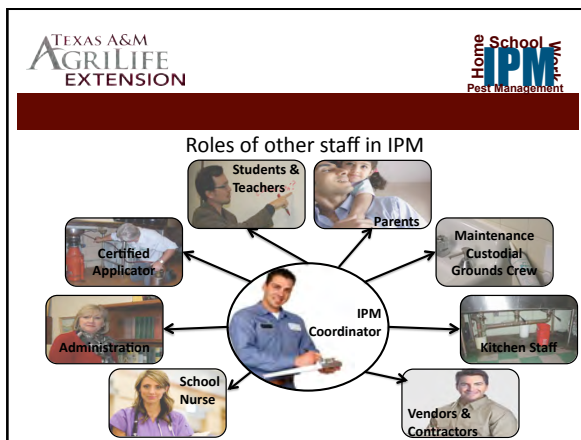
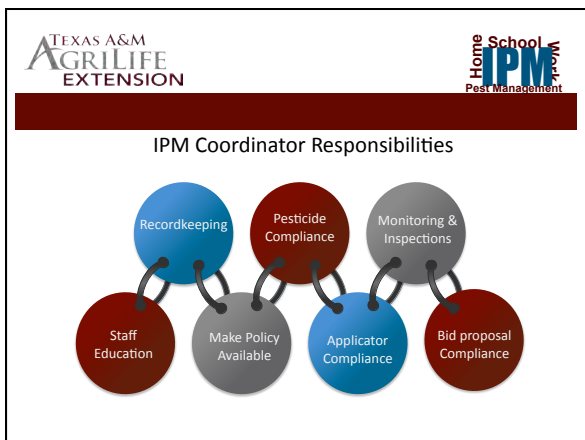
School district roles & responsibilities

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    graph LR
      A[Employ or contract with a licensed pesticide applicator] --> B[Before the first week of school, implement procedure for notification of pesticide application]
      B --> C[Maintain registry of chemically sensitive students]
  
```

*Licensee may serve as IPM Coordinator

*Includes phone, written, electronic notification to parents wanting notification.



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Certified Applicator follows IPM rules



- Apply only EPA certified pesticides appropriate for the target pest
- Provide the structural pest management needs of the school district by following the school district's IPM program
- Obtain written approval from the IPM Coordinator(s) for the use of pesticides

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Certified Applicator helps with records



- Send records of pesticide use, pest complaints and records of IPM activities to the IPM Coordinator
- Consult with the IPM Coordinator(s) concerning the use of control measures in buildings and grounds
- Ensure that all pest control activities are consistent with the school district's IPM program and IPM policy.

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School Administrator sets the tone for program

Administrators should be **aware of state laws** about IPM in schools, pesticide use in schools, any other regulations addressing pest management and the district's IPM policy.

IPM programs need administrative support for sustainability and effectiveness.

The IPM Coordinator should communicate with school administrators on a regular basis.



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School Administrators need to...


The most important responsibilities of administrators are to:

- Adopt and maintain an IPM policy.
- Include IPM as part of your health and/or safety committee(s)
 - SHAC (School Health Advisory Councils)
- Designate and train a competent IPM Coordinator.
- Support priorities for maintenance and sanitation, as identified by the IPM Coordinator.
- Encourage faculty and staff understanding and full participation in the IPM program.

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School Nurses critical for student needs



- Be aware of IPM Policy, IPM Plan and pesticides on school property.
- Be familiar with the signs and symptoms of **pesticide poisoning**.
- Be aware of signs of **pest exposure** including head lice, fire ants, bed bugs, asthma, rabies and mosquito and tick-borne diseases present in the region.
- Ask them to report signs of these things.

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School Nurses help track sensitive students

A nurse should:


- Be aware of any children or staff with asthma, chemical sensitivities or allergies to stinging insects.
- Have information on IPM strategies for pests that can impact student health.
- Keep a list of students who have serious reactions to stinging insects. And communicate this information to the IPM Coordinator

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Students and Teachers sight and sanitize


- **Report pest sightings**
 - Pest sighting logs, work order system
- **Keep facilities clean:**
 - Leaving NO food in lockers, classrooms and common areas.
 - NO eating or drinking in areas not designated for food consumption.
 - NO clutter, which can provide shelter and makes inspection and cleaning difficult.



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Parents report, reinforce program



- Parent support of IPM **motivates and reinforces school staff efforts** to provide effective, low risk pest control.
- Parent support for IPM can strengthen your district's IPM program.

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Parents report, reinforce program

Express any concerns to IPM Coordinator, PTO or school administrator.

Notify administration of chemically sensitive child.


Use IPM practices in their homes to extend the benefits of IPM.



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Maintenance/Custodial/Grounds staff



- Staff are responsible for recognizing and correcting conditions that may lead to pest problems.
- Examples: water leaks, potential pest entryways, plants touching buildings (providing pest access).
- It is essential that all maintenance, custodial and grounds staff be adequately **trained to recognize and prevent pest problems.**

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Kitchen staff critical for pest management

Food preparation & handling areas are one of the most vulnerable areas for pests.

Safe food preparation requires good understanding of IPM.

Good sanitation and proper food storage are critical practices.



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Vendors & Contractor Roles

- School districts enforce good sanitation practices of service providers by including specific language in **bid specifications** and contracts.
- If appropriate, contracts may specify regular maintenance, to include or correspond with cleaning under and behind machines during service visits.



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Vendors & Contractor Relations

Districts prioritize correction of problems that may support pests such as leaks or harborage areas.

Districts may administer penalties for not following the district's IPM policy.

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Contracts should include

- Services in-line with the school IPM policy.
- Regular consultation with the IPM Coordinator.
- Procedures for timely response to pest sightings.
- Schedules for conducting regular inspections of pest vulnerable areas.
- Requirements for detailed record keeping of pest sightings and pesticide use.



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