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Working together to Protect the Health of Communities from Exposures to Toxic Substances:

Successfully Embracing the
Precautionary Principle



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Los Angeles Unified School District (District) to practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). All aspects of this program will be in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, and county ordinances. All District policies must conform to this IPM policy.

Pesticides pose risks to human health and the environment, with special risks to children. It is recognized that pesticides cause adverse health effects in humans such as cancer, neurological disruption, birth defects, genetic alteration, reproductive harm, immune system dysfunction, endocrine disruption and acute poisoning. Pests will be controlled to protect the health and safety of students and staff, maintain a productive learning environment and maintain the integrity of school buildings and grounds. Pesticides will not be used to control pests for aesthetic reasons alone. The safety and health of students, staff and the environment will be paramount.

Further, it is the goal of the District to provide for the safest and lowest risk approach to control pest problems while protecting people, the environment and property. The District's IPM Policy incorporates focusing on long-term prevention and will give non-chemical methods first consideration when selecting appropriate pest control techniques. The District will strive to ultimately eliminate the use of all chemical controls.

The "Precautionary Principle" is the long-term objective of the District. The principle recognizes that:

- a) no pesticide product is free from risk or threat to human health, and
- b) industrial producers should be required to prove that their pesticide products demonstrate an absence of the risks enumerated in paragraph two (2) rather than requiring that the government or the public prove that human health is being harmed.

15 MEMBER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- 1 IPM Coordinator
- 2 Parent Representatives
- 2 Community Representatives
- 2 Environmental Representatives
- 1 LAUSD Food Service Representative
- 1 LAUSD OEHS Representative
- 1 LAUSD Principal
- 1 Department of Public Health Representative
- 1 Medical Practitioner
- 1 Contracted IPM Expert
- 1 UTLA(teacher) Representative
- 1 LAUSD Non- Management Representative

AB 405 (Montañez) & Healthy Schools Act

Sponsored by California Safe Schools

Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005, prohibits the use at schools of experimental pesticides, including conditional use pesticides that are not fully registered, and pesticides whose registration has been cancelled, suspended, or targeted for phase-out.

Current Government Standards Not Expansive

Government regulations and manufacturers of synthetic chemicals, however, determine exposure-threshold levels based on a healthy adult male who weighs 160 pounds.



Amount of Chemicals Currently in Use

The Toxic Substances Control Act lists about 75,000 chemicals currently in use. Our country produces or imports 42 billion pounds of chemicals daily and global production is expected to double every 25 years.

For further information:

Robina Suwol
calisafe@earthlink.net
818.785.5515
www.calisafe.org

