

August 1, 2011

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member:

This notice is being distributed to comply with the North Carolina School Children's Health Act. Gaston County Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy to comply with this law. IPM is a comprehensive approach to pest control that combines effective, economic, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable methods to prevent and solve pest problems in our schools. With this approach, our goal is to minimize pesticide use in our schools and on school grounds. IPM is explained further in the District's Pest Management Policy, Policy Code 9235, which can be accessed through our website ([www.gaston.k12.nc.us](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us)) selecting the "Parents" Tab, the "Board of Education", the "Board Policy."

The IPM Coordinator for our school district is:

Virgil Welch  
Logistics Manager  
943 Osceola Street  
P O Box 1397  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
704-866-6270

Your school principal can also answer questions about the IPM Program. The IPM Coordinator and the school principal maintain the pesticide product labels and the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) of each pesticide product that may be used on school property. The labels and the MSDS are available for review upon request by a parent, guardian, staff member, or student attending the school. Also, the IPM Coordinator is available to help answer questions you might have about the schools system's Pest Management Program and pesticide use decisions.

Our school system may find it necessary to use pesticides to control pest. Chemicals are used in the least toxic form (active ingredient and/or formulation). North Carolina state law gives you the right to be notified annually of our use of pesticides. You may request notification ahead of time of pesticide applications. Certain relatively low-risk pesticides are exempt from these notification requirements, including antimicrobial cleaners, disinfectants, self-contained baits and crack-and-crevice treatments, and any other pesticide products classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as belonging to the US EPA's Toxicity Class IV, "relatively nontoxic" group. Currently, all interior pest treatment products that we use belong to the US EPA's Toxicity Class IV, "relatively nontoxic" class of pesticides. In the event that a non-exempt pesticide must be used for a pest control emergency at a school and you have requested notification, you will be notified of the application in advance or as soon as possible after the pesticide application. If you would like notification of pesticide application, you will need to submit a written request for notification of non-exempt pesticide applications at your child's school, and/or at the school site where you are employed by the school district. Submit your written request to the school's principal or, for non-school facilities, to the building manager.

The objectives of the Integrated Pest Management program are to:

- Protect the health and well being of students and staff and maintain a productive learning environment.
- Maintain the integrity of school buildings and grounds and prevent damage or loss to school resources, structures, or property.
- Prevent pests from spreading in the school.
- Prevent disruptions of the learning environment.
- Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others.

Our Integrated Pest Management program depends on the cooperation of everyone involved including administrators, teachers, other school staff, students and parents, and pest management professionals. Communication is an important factor to the success in preventing and solving pest problems in our schools.

Thank you for reading this important information.

L. Reeves McGlohon,  
Superintendent