



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SCHOOL IPM COALITION MEMBERSHIP

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to define the objectives and responsibilities for a school IPM coalition at large and its membership, leading to the successful adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) in schools. This document provides a starting point of good faith and clarifies the intention to work towards common goals.

OVERALL INTENT:

IPM is defined as a proven approach for the management of pests, while protecting human health and the environment, and improving efficient use of financial resources. An IPM approach focuses on eliminating the cause of pests through monitoring and inspection, and using least hazardous methods when necessary.

The coalition is defined as an alliance among individuals or groups, cooperating in joint action, each in their own self-interest, joining together for a common cause. The purpose of forming a coalition is to promote efficient and comprehensive information transfer, collaboration, resource sharing, reduced redundancy and an increase in school IPM implementation that establishes high-level verifiable IPM programs.

Coalition participants agree to work towards the following goals:

Create peer-to-peer mentoring opportunities. Diverse coalition membership makes for a favorable atmosphere for information transfer between peers.

Attend quarterly or biannual in-person meetings and events. Meeting and events are opportunities for IPM education, resource sharing and training on practical IPM solutions in schools. Face-to-face participation is invaluable when building the relationships that form coalitions.

Provide baseline metrics and report annual metrics. School districts implementing IPM programs may provide metrics to the coalition to track progress and fulfill grant deliverables. Coalition leaders may also track specific coalition activities for grant reporting purposes.

COALITION PARTICIPANTS TYPICALLY INCLUDE:

- School facilities managers, IPM coordinators, risk managers, food/nutrition managers, superintendents, nurses, maintenance leads, custodial leads, grounds/maintenance leads, PTA/PTO and/or student council representatives
- Pest management professionals (PMPs), landscape maintenance professionals
- Parents
- University faculty and/or local extension
- Representatives from state, county and/or tribal departments of agriculture, health, environmental protection, education
- Advocacy groups with missions related to child health and/or IPM

POTENTIAL ROLES

Identifying roles within a coalition will help to eliminate confusion and achieve goals as the coalition progresses.

University, State Lead Agencies and Change Agent Roles

EDUCATION

- Support the education of IPM personnel within the coalition.
- Develop and disseminate outreach materials to coalition stakeholders.
- Conduct audits of facility pest and pesticide risks.
- Conduct cost evaluations.
- Facilitate the drafting of strong bid specs for IPM services.

RESEARCH

- Develop novel approaches to pest management in schools.
- Comparison of pest prevalence and pesticide use data from project schools.

School District Roles

- Allow IPM experts to access previous records related to IPM coalition work.
- Allow IPM experts to access personnel in schools (including staff and teachers) for training and determination of pest problems.
- Support communication between school community and Pest Management Professionals.
- Distribution of IPM materials to teachers, administration, staff, faculty, and parents.
- Agree to visitation by school administrators from other districts and states.
- Create and communicate an IPM Policy.
- Appoint a district-wide IPM Specialist who will coordinate site inspections, training sessions and the timely remediation of pest conducive conditions, etc.
- Support peers in surrounding school districts interested in implementing IPM.

Advocacy Group Roles

- Coordinate, teach and/or attend IPM trainings and events.
- Facilitate networking amongst stakeholders.
- Educate and interact with legislators on legislation and policy.
- Disseminate outreach communications via media, fact sheets, newsletters, etc.
- Graphic design support for coalition materials.
- Facilitate the drafting of strong bid specs for IPM services.
- Confirm state compliance standards are met.

Pest Management Professional Roles

- Facilitate the drafting of strong bid specs for IPM services.
- Support the education of the district IPM specialist and other pest management staff, communicate knowledge of contemporary techniques, tools, and products.
- Facilitate good record keeping practices.
- Confirm state compliance standards are met.

SIGNED (This is a non-legally binding membership commitment)

I support school IPM practices and related activities and will participate as a member:

Coalition Member

Coalition Leader

Date