HGCS Integrated Pest Management Plan

Oct 27, 2026 · @Kat

Purpose and legal basis

This plan sets out how Howard Gardner Community Charter School (HGCS) prevents and manages pests at its schoolsite, following the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) school IPM plan template. It meets the Healthy Schools Act (HSA) requirement for an integrated pest management plan (Education Code 17608–17613; Food & Agricultural Code 13180–13188).

Under EC 17611.5, HGCS must post this plan on its website if it uses any pesticide not exempt under EC 17610.5. If HGCS uses only exempt products, posting is optional but recommended. Exempt products are: self-contained baits or traps, gels or pastes used as crack-and-crevice treatments, antimicrobials (sanitizers, disinfectants), and pesticides exempt from U.S. EPA registration. (DPR HSA Compliance Packet; EC 17611.5)

Contacts and IPM team

The IPM Coordinator (school designee) is responsible for meeting every Healthy Schools Act requirement at HGCS.

Item	Detail
School	Howard Gardner Community Charter School
Address	647 E St Chula Vista, CA 91910
Website	hgcschool.org
IPM Coordinator	[Name, title]
Coordinator phone	[Phone]
Coordinator email	[Email]

Other people involved in purchasing, IPM decisions, pesticide application, and HSA compliance:

Name and/or title	Role in IPM program
Executive Director	Approves the IPM plan and pest control contract
Facilities/operations lead	Arranges inspections, repairs, and contractor visits
Custodial staff	Daily sanitation, monitoring, and reporting pest sightings
Office manager	Sends annual notification, keeps registry and records
Licensed pest control business	Pest identification, monitoring, and any pesticide applications

Pest management contracting

- [ ] Pest management services are contracted to a licensed pest control business: Jamul Pest Control
- [ ] Before contracting, HGCS confirmed the business understands HSA training and other requirements.

Identification, monitoring, and inspection

Pests are identified by the contracted pest control business. Custodial staff check for pests and conducive conditions daily and report findings to the IPM Coordinator. The contractor inspects the site quarterly, including sticky monitoring boards in the kitchen/food areas, classrooms, and restrooms.

IPM statement

It is the goal of Howard Gardner Community Charter School to implement IPM by focusing on long-term prevention or suppression of pests through accurate pest identification, frequent monitoring for pest presence, appropriate action levels, and making the habitat less conducive to pests using sanitation and mechanical and physical controls. Pesticides that are effective will be used in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment, and only after other options have been shown ineffective.

Our pest management objectives are to:

- Focus on long-term pest prevention rather than routine spraying.

- Protect the health of students, including our youngest TK learners, staff, and visitors.
- Use the least-hazardous effective option when treatment is needed.
- Keep open communication with staff, families, and the contractor about pest issues and any pesticide use.

Pests and non-chemical management practices

HGCS routinely uses these non-chemical practices to keep pests below action levels. Confirm the pest list with your contractor and adjust the checks to match actual site practice.

Pest	Remove food	Fix leaks	Seal cracks	Install barriers	Physical removal	Traps	Manage irrigation	Other
Ants	✓	✓	✓		✓			Lidded trash, wipe-downs
Cockroaches	✓	✓	✓			✓		Reduce clutter and cardboard
Rodents (mice, rats)	✓		✓	✓		✓		Trim vegetation from buildings
Spiders			✓	✓	✓			Vacuum webs
Yellowjackets, bees	✓				✓	✓		Lidded outdoor trash; beekeeper relocation
Gophers				✓		✓	✓	Wire mesh in planters
Weeds					✓		✓	Mulch, hand-pulling
Birds (pigeons)	✓			✓				Netting or spikes on ledges

Chemical pest management practices

If non-chemical methods are ineffective, HGCS will consider pesticides only after monitoring shows they are needed under pre-established action levels. HGCS will use pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective, in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment.

Pesticides expected to be applied

HGCS expects the following pesticides to be applied during the 2026–27 school year by school staff or the licensed pest control business. Get this list from the contractor's service agreement or application records; it must match the annual notification sent to families.

Pesticide product (common name)	Active ingredient(s)	EPA Reg. No.	Applied by	Target pest
[Product]	[Active ingredient]	[Number]	[Contractor/staff]	[Pest]
[Product]	[Active ingredient]	[Number]	[Contractor/staff]	[Pest]
[Product]	[Active ingredient]	[Number]	[Contractor/staff]	[Pest]

If HGCS uses only HSA-exempt products (bait stations, traps, crack-and-crevice gels or pastes, sanitizers and disinfectants), note that here; the plan, posting, notification, and recordkeeping then become optional, but staff training still applies.

Healthy Schools Act compliance

- [ ] HGCS complies with the notification, posting, recordkeeping, and all other requirements of the Healthy Schools Act (EC 17608–17613, 48980.3; FAC 13180–13188).

Requirement	What HGCS does
Annual notification	Sends all parents, guardians, and staff a written list of pesticides expected that year, with active ingredients and the DPR website (www.cdpr.ca.gov), typically in the start-of-year notices packet.
Notification registry	Offers families and staff the chance to register for notice at least 72 hours before each individual application.

Requirement	What HGCS does
Warning signs	Posts signs in each treated area at least 24 hours before and 72 hours after any application.
Emergency use	If immediate use is needed for health and safety, posts signs at the time of application and makes every effort to notify registry members beforehand.
Recordkeeping	Keeps records of every pesticide application for at least 4 years.
Use reporting	Reports pesticides applied by school staff to DPR by January 30 for the prior calendar year (form DPR-HSA-118). Contractors report their own use.

Where this plan is available

- [ ] Posted online at: [hgcschool.org page URL]
- [ ] Sent to all parents, guardians, and staff with the annual notification
- [ ] A copy is available in the school office

Training

Every year, before any pesticide use, HGCS employees who apply pesticides (including exempt products) complete:

- [ ] Pesticide-specific safety training (Title 3 CCR 6724)
- [ ] A DPR-approved school IPM training course (EC 17614; FAC 13186.5), offered free online by DPR

Review and sign-off

- [ ] This plan will be reviewed, and revised if needed, at least annually to confirm the information is still true and correct.

Date of next review: Aug 1, 2027

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the HGCS IPM Plan and it is true and correct.

IPM Coordinator signature: _____ Date: _____

Sources

- DPR Healthy Schools Act Compliance Packet for School Districts (IPM plan template, notification forms, warning sign, DPR-HSA-118)
- California Education Code 17611.5