

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Material in Schools**

#### **Pest Management /Pesticide Application**

The Board of Education believes that structural and landscape pests can pose significant hazards to people, property and the environment. Pests are living organisms such as plants, animals or microorganisms, that interfere with human uses for the school site. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species and the degree to which that population poses a threat to people, property or the environment. Further, the Board also believes that pesticides can also pose hazards to people, property and the environment. The intent of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, staff and all others using district buildings and grounds.

The goal of this pest management program is to manage pests in order to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard and/or to protect against a significant threat to public safety;
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property;
- Prevent pests from spreading in the community or to plant and animal populations beyond the site;
- Enhance the quality of life and to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and others.

The school district shall incorporate Integrated Pest Management procedures (IPM) to manage structural and landscape pests and the toxic chemicals for their control in order to alleviate pest problems with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. In addition, staff and parents or guardians of students shall be given notice, at least annually, of the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the use of all available pest control techniques including judicious use of pesticides, when warranted, to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level, while decreasing the unnecessary use of pesticides. It is a plan consistent with an applicable model plan provided by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection pursuant to Connecticut state law.

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#### **Pest Management /Pesticide Application (continued)**

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means. Chemical controls shall be used as a last resort. The Board establishes that the school district shall use pesticides only after consideration of the full range of alternatives, including no action, based upon an analysis of environmental effects, safety, effectiveness and costs. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures and to coordinate communications with members of the staff who are responsible for pest control, such as maintenance personnel and custodians, and hired contractors when utilized by the district to control a pest problem. The Maintenance Supervisor/Head Custodian shall be designated as the IPM supervisor and shall direct and supervise all IPM procedures to be carried out by assigned maintenance and/or custodial staff.

Consistent with state law, no person, other than a pesticide applicator with supervisory certification under Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-54 or a pesticide applicator with operational certification under § 22a-54 under the direct supervision of a supervisory pesticide applicator, may apply pesticide within any building or on the grounds of any school. This section shall not apply in the case of an emergency application of pesticide to eliminate an immediate threat to human health where it is impractical to obtain the services of any such applicator provided such emergency application does not involve a restricted use pesticide.

No person shall apply a lawn care pesticide on the grounds of any preschool or school with students in grade eight or lower, except that an emergency application of a lawn care pesticide may be made to eliminate a threat to human health, as determined by the local health director, the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the Superintendent of Schools

All district employees who use chemicals to control a pest problem must be trained and shall follow all precautions and application regulations. The District will only employ certified pesticide applicators for any necessary and non-emergency pesticide use in school building or on school grounds. Contractors hired to do this work shall give evidence of appropriate training and certification in the proper use of pesticides. Pest control contractors shall be utilized, when deemed necessary, to inspect for conditions conducive to pest problems and to develop appropriate prevention measures. Pest control contractors will be expected to write recommendations for structural improvements or repairs and housekeeping and sanitation measures required to reduce or prevent recurrence of pest problems.

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#### **Pest Management /Pesticide Application (continued)**

Whenever it is deemed necessary to use a chemical substance, that school must provide notification to all parents and staff who have registered for advanced notification in conformity with state statutes. Parents/guardians and staff requesting advanced notification must be notified on the day of such use by any method practicable. Except for emergency applications, notices shall also be posted in designated areas at school at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the application. The notice shall include 1) the name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied to the target/pest; 2) the target pest; 3) the location of the application on the school property; 4) the date of the application; and 5) the name of the school administrator or designee who may be contacted for further information.

#### **Notice of policy**

At the beginning of each school year and at the time a student is registered, parents/guardians shall be informed of the District's pest management policy. Those parents/guardians and staff who register a request shall be notified prior to every pesticide application. Notice of any modification of the pesticide application policy shall also be sent to any person who registers for this notice.

#### **Website Notice of Applications**

The school district's home page must indicate how parents may register for prior notice of pesticide applications.

Notice of pesticide applications shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours prior to such application through (A) the home page of the Internet website for the school where such application will occur, or, in the event such school does not have a website, on the home page of the Internet website for the Board, and (B) the primary social media account of such school or the Board.

Information regarding pesticides used and areas treated shall be maintained for a period of five years at the school site and available to the public and staff upon request. The district shall establish and maintain accurate records of all chemical use and their location. In addition, records of all pest control actions including information on indicators of pest activity that can verify the need for action.

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#### **Summary of Applications Notice**

By March 15th of each year, the Board shall send an annual notice via e-mail notification or alert system for applications made since January first of such year and a listing of such notices for applications made during the March fifteenth through December thirty-first timeframe from the preceding calendar year. This annual summary of applications shall also be published in parent handbooks, manuals or annual notices.

Pesticide applications shall be limited to non-school hours and when activities are not taking place, except that an emergency application of a lawn care pesticide may be made to eliminate a threat to human health, as determined by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- §10-231a Pesticide applications at schools: Definitions
- §10-231b Pesticide applications at schools: Authorized applications. Ban. Exceptions.
- §10-231d Pesticide applications at schools with an integrated pest management plan
- 22a-46. Short title: Connecticut Pesticide Control Act.
- 22a-47(cc) Definitions
- 22a-54. Pesticide applicators, certification, classification, notice, fees, reciprocity; financial responsibility; aircraft, tree, public employee applicators.
- 22a-58. Records to be kept by distributors and applicators.
- 23-61b. Licensing for arboriculture; examination; fees; renewal; suspension, revocation. Nonresidents. Records. Pesticides.
- 22a-66a(a)(2) Notification of the application of pesticides

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S. Code 136 et seq.

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NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
New Milford, Connecticut