

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

PEST MANAGEMENT / PESTICIDE APPLICATION

3524.1(a)

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; and
- 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, students and the public shall be educated, at least annually, about potential school pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with available pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard.

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 is the designated Integrated Pest Management Supervisor and shall direct and supervise all IPM procedures to be carried out by a licensed, certified contractor.

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Any 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.

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. The District, prior to any application of pesticide within any building or on school grounds shall provide such notice by electronic mail no later than twenty-four hours prior to the pesticide application. Notices shall also be posted in designated areas at school at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the application. The District's website must indicate how parents/guardians may register for prior notice of pesticide application.

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. Parents/guardians who have registered for prior notice shall receive a transmittal of notice by electronic mail no later than twenty-four hours prior to such application.

The notice shall include:

- the name of the active ingredient of the pesticide being applied;
- the target pest;
- the location of the application on school property;
- the date of the application; and
- the name of the school administrator or designee who may be contacted for further information.

The Board of Education must post notice of pesticide application not less than twenty-four hours prior to the application on or through the (1) home page of the school's website where the application will occur, or in the absence of a school's website, on the District's website; and (2) the primary social media account of the school or Board of Education.

Notice shall be given by any means practicable to school staff who have registered for such notice.

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Not later than March 15 of each year, a notice of applications made since January first of such year, and a listing of such notices for applications made during the period March 15th through December 31st time frame from the preceding calendar year shall be sent through the District's electronic mail notification or alert system. This notification is for those parents/guardians who previously registered for prior notification of pesticide applications.

The District shall include the Family Guide of the Fairfield Public Schools.

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.

Pesticide applications shall be limited to non-school hours and when activities are not taking place.

The application of lawn care pesticides on the grounds of any schools with students in grade eight or lower, except on an emergency basis, must be according to an integrated pest management plan (IPM). An emergency application may be made to eliminate a human health threat in any school with students through grade eight as determined by the Superintendent of Schools, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-231b Pesticide applications at schools: Authorized applicators. Exception. (as amended by P.A. 09-56)
10-231c Pesticide applications at schools without an integrated pest management plan. (as amended by June 2015 Special Session PA 15-5)
22a-46 Short title: Connecticut Pesticide Control Act.
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.
P.A. 09-56 An Act Concerning Pesticide Applications At Child Day Care Centers and Schools.
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S. Code 136 et seq