

PESTICIDES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education is concerned about the potential health and safety risks posed by the indiscriminate use of pesticides in and around schools and school children. To this end, the Board adopts the Integrated Pest Management System (IPM) as a method of eliminating or significantly reducing the use of pesticides. IPM relies on the least toxic and most natural methods to control pests.

The Superintendent, or his/her assigned designee, shall ensure the implementation of the Integrated Pest Management Program and shall disseminate this policy and conduct any training necessary to ensure that all staff are fully informed about the techniques of IPM.

Since there may be instances in which the use of pesticides cannot be avoided, the district, pursuant to Department of Environmental Conservation regulations, will maintain a copy of the label of each pesticide used in or outside the school at the school where it is being used and this information will be available to anyone who requests it. Generally, pesticides will not be used on district playgrounds, turf, athletic or playing fields, unless there is an emergency. Emergencies will be handled in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Notification of Pesticide Application

All district staff and parents/guardians will be notified of pesticide applications performed at any school facility. A notice will be sent at the beginning of the school year which will include:

1. Notification of periodic pesticide applications throughout school year.
2. The availability of 48-hour prior written notification of pesticide applications to parents and staff who request such notice.
3. Instructions on how to register with the school to receive this prior written notification (see below).
4. The name and number of the school representative who can provide further information.

Prior Written Notification

A separate notice will be sent to staff and parents within two days of the end of winter and spring recess and within 10 days of the end of the school year which includes the date, location and product used for each pesticide application which required prior notification and each emergency application.

The Superintendent of Schools, or his/her assigned designee, shall ensure the dissemination of this policy and conduct any training necessary to ensure that all staff are fully informed about pesticides and pest management.

Information on pesticides shall also be incorporated into the district's Hazard Communication Standard program and the Superintendent shall ensure that any potential pesticide-related emergencies and the methods for handling such emergencies are included in the district's emergency management plan.

Cross-ref: 8111, Reporting of Hazards

Ref: Environmental Conservation Law, Art. 33
Education Law § 409-h (Requirements for Notification of Pesticide Applications)
6 NYCRR Part 325 (Application of Pesticides)
8 NYCRR 155.4 (Uniform Code of Public School Building Inspections, Safety Rating and Monitoring)
Desmond Americana v. Jorling, 153 AD2d 4 (3rd Dept. 1989)
IPM Workbook for New York State Schools, Cornell Cooperative Extension Community IPM Program with support from New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, August 1998

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