

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Hazardous Material in Schools

Pest Management /Pesticide Application

The purpose of this policy is to define how the New London Board of Education (Board) will manage its control of structural and landscape pests and at the same time protect students, school district employees, and other individuals who visit/use school facilities and grounds from the hazards of pesticides.

The policy is based on the following beliefs:

1. Structural and landscape pests pose significant hazards to school district employees, students, other people, property and the environment.
2. 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.
3. Pesticides can pose hazards to school employees, students, other people, property and the environment.

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

1. Reduce any potential human health hazard and/or to protect against a significant threat to public safety;
2. Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property;
3. Prevent pests from spreading in the community or to plant and animal populations beyond the site;
4. Enhance the quality of life and to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for school employees, students, and other people coming into contact with school property.

The Superintendent shall promulgate 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 employees, students, other people, property and the environment. IPM is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with the 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 result.

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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 the environmental effects, safety, effectiveness and costs.

The Superintendent or his or her designee shall be responsible to implement IPM procedures and to coordinate communications with members of the staff who are responsible for pest control, such as city maintenance personnel and school custodians and contractors when used by the school district to control or address a pest problem. The Superintendent shall designate the IPM Supervisor for the school district. The IPM Supervisor will be responsible for directing and supervising all IPM procedures to be carried out by the assigned staff or contractor.

All school district employees who use chemicals to control a pest problem must be trained and shall follow all precautions and application regulations. The school district will only employ certified pesticide applicators. 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 used, when deemed necessary, to inspect for conditions conducive to pest problems and to develop appropriate prevention strategies. Pest control contractors will be expected to provide written recommendations for structural improvements and repairs and housekeeping measures required to reduce or prevent the recurrence of pest problems.

Whenever it is deemed necessary to apply a chemical substance to a facility or field administered by the school district, all parents or guardians and school district employees shall be notified in advance of the exact date and location of the application. Notices will be posted in designated areas in the schools at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the application.

Whenever the City of New London uses a chemical substance on a facility or field not administered by the school district but regularly used by district students, all parents or guardians and school district employees shall be notified in advance of the exact date and location of the application.

Information regarding pesticides used and areas treated shall be maintained for a period of five (5) years at the school site and available to the public and staff upon request. The school district shall establish and maintain accurate records for 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, will be maintained.

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

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At the beginning of each school year, all school district employees shall be informed of this pest management policy. At the time that a student is registered, his or her parents or guardians will be informed of this pest management policy.

The application of lawn care pesticides on the grounds of any schools with students in grade eight or lower must be according to an IPM plan. Such application is prohibited starting July 1, 2010 except in emergencies. 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.

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.
 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.

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NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut