

**SUBJECT: PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDE USAGE**

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining the integrity of school buildings and grounds while protecting the health and safety of students and staff and maintaining a productive learning environment.

Structural and landscape pests can pose significant problems for people and property. Weeds and infestations can destroy playing fields and playgrounds and more importantly, cause severe allergic reactions. Pesticides can pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore the policy of the School District to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of weeds, structural and landscape pests. The objective of this program is to provide necessary pest control while using the least toxic approach to all pests, weeds and infestations.

**Pest/Pesticide Management Plan**

The District will manage weeds and pests to:

- a) Reduce any potential human health hazard or threat to public safety.
- b) Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property.
- c) Prevent pests from spreading into the community, or to plant and animal populations beyond the site.
- d) Enhance the quality of life for students, staff, and others.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator**

An IPM Coordinator will be appointed by the Superintendent of schools. The Coordinator will be responsible for implementing the IPM policy and plan. The coordinator's responsibilities will include the following:

- a) Recording all pest sightings by school staff and students.
- b) Recording all pesticide use and utilizing the least toxic approach.
- c) Meeting with the local Pest Control Officer (PCO) to share information on what pest problems are present in the school.
- d) Assuring that all of the PCO's recommendations on maintenance and sanitation are carried out where feasible.

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- e) Assuring that any pesticide use is done when school is not in session or when the area can be completely secured against access by school staff and students for a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours.
- f) Evaluating the school's progress in the IPM plan.
- g) Notifying parents, staff and neighbors of any applications of pesticides forty-eight (48) hours before they occur. The IPM Coordinator will serve as the District's Pesticide Representative.

### **Pesticide Use on Common Areas**

Pesticides will not be used on playgrounds, turf, athletic or playing fields. In these common areas where children gather and play, pesticide alternatives will be used whenever possible and effective. An exception may be made for emergency applications of pesticide only when approved in advance by the local Health Department, Department of Environmental Conservation or the School Board. Some types of pesticides and alternatives, those deemed safe in federal regulation, may be allowable on playing fields and playgrounds in certain circumstances. The District will develop regulations governing the use of pesticides and their alternatives on school grounds.

### **Notification**

The District's IPM Coordinator or designated Pesticide Representative will give prior written notice of all pesticide applications to anyone who has asked to receive such notice. The District will also annually notify parents, students and staff of periodic pesticide applications. The District will maintain a list of those people who wish to receive forty-eight (48) hour notice before pesticide applications and will ensure that a system is developed to deliver such notice in a timely fashion to all affected. The notification system may be by mail or email, and will ensure that a back-up method is available to notify those for whom the regular system is unworkable. The name and contact information for the District Pesticide Representative will be made available to all requesting it.

Sample forms for forty-eight (48) hour prior notification can be obtained at:

[http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/PesticideNeighborNotificationGuidelineforSchools\\_091001.pdf](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/PesticideNeighborNotificationGuidelineforSchools_091001.pdf)

### **Recordkeeping**

Records of pesticide use will be maintained on site for three (3) years. Records will be completed on the day of pesticide use. In addition, pest surveillance records will be maintained to help verify the need for pesticide treatments.

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Education Law Sections 409-k, 409-h  
Environmental Conservation Law Section 33-0303  
40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 152.25  
7 United States Code Section 136(mm), 136q(h)(2) (FIFRA)

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