

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TWENTY-FOUR

PESTICIDES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

Policy 7200

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.

The Board of Education recognizes that pests can pose a significant risk to health and property and there may be significant risks inherent in using chemical pesticides in the school environment. Generally, pesticides will not be used on School District playgrounds, turf, athletic or playing fields and the School District will not purchase anything that contains or is treated with pesticides, unless there is an emergency. Emergencies will be handled in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Provisions will be made for the least toxic approach to an integrated pest management (IPM) program for all school buildings and grounds in accordance with the Commissioner's regulations. Integrated pest management is a systematic approach to managing pests focusing on long-term prevention or suppression with minimal impact on human health, the environment and non-targeted organisms.

Notification of Pesticide Application

All School 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 forty-eight (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.
4. The name and number of the school representative who can provide further information.

A separate notice will be sent to staff and parents/guardians within two (2) days of the end of winter and spring recess and within ten (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.

Integrated Pest Management Program

Definitions:

“Pest” shall mean (a) any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed or (b) any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism (except viruses, bacteria or other micro-organisms on or in living man or other animals) which interfere with the purposes set forth herein.

“Integrated pest management” (“IPM”) shall mean 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 to people, property and the environment.

Strategies for managing pest population will be influenced by whether pest species pose a threat to people, property or the environment. Pests will be managed to:

- Prevent loss of school structure or property;
- Prevent outbreaks of the pest from spreading to forests, trees, other plant communities or animal populations outside the school district’s facilities;
- Conserve threatened, endangered or unique plant specimens or communities;
- Manage a human health hazard as defined by the Center for Disease Control and the New York State Department of Health or to protect against a significant threat to public safety.

IPM will be used to determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, or biological means. A regular system of monitoring for pests and recordkeeping for each inspection, trapping or treatment shall be maintained. Recommendations for site and sanitation improvements for future prevention shall be made.

The School District’s policy is not to use pesticides. Only alternatives to pesticides, including no action, will be utilized. The following are the only methods of pesticide application to be used:

- Anti-microbial products;
- Non-volatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Non-volatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other non-volatile ready-to-use-pastes, foams or gels in areas in accessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40 CFR 152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a direct spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets.

Written records will be made and retained on all pre-inspections, control measures and post-inspections. The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee will be responsible for implementation and operation of the IPM program, including training materials and pest management procedures for all School District maintenance/facilities personnel. Procedures will be put in place and carried out by all users of buildings to prevent infestation of pests. No person

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shall purchase or use any pesticide without approval of the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

In the event the School District contracts with a pest control contractor for the application of authorized pesticide applications authorized hereunder, the School District shall require that the pest control contractor employ a staff entomologist.

The within policy will be disseminated to staff, students and the community via the School District website.

Cross-ref: 7100-Building and Grounds Maintenance and Inspections

Ref: Environmental Conservation Law, Art.33
Education Law §§ 409-h; 409-k
6 NYCRR Part 325; 8 NYCRR §§ 155.24., 155.4

Adoption date: February 26, 2020

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