

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Hazardous Material in Schools

Pesticide Application

The Board is committed to minimizing the use of pesticides. Therefore, the primary practice of pest control shall involve reducing/eliminating the conditions necessary for pest survival. These measures include but are not limited to good housekeeping and routine, prompt maintenance of buildings and grounds.

However when pesticides are utilized the Board wants to ensure that staff, students, and parents/guardians receive adequate advance notice of pesticide applications in school buildings or on school grounds. The intent is to prevent unnecessary exposure of staff, students or the public to potentially harmful substances.

The Board has promulgated an integrated pest management plan for rodents. The Board does not use ANY pesticides on the playing fields, lawns or playgrounds of its schools. If the Board decides to start using such pesticides, it will promulgate an integrated pest management plan for the application of lawn care pesticide on the playing fields and playgrounds at schools with students in grade eight or lower.

A “pesticide” is defined as a fungicide used on plants, an insecticide, a herbicide, or a rodenticide but does **not** mean a sanitizer, disinfectant, antimicrobial agent or pesticide bait.

Legal Reference:

- Connecticut General Statutes*
- 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.*
- 23-61a. Definitions. Tree protection examining Board within Department of Consumer Protection. Regulations.*
- 23-61b. Licensing for arboriculture; examination; fees; renewal; suspension, revocation. Nonresidents. Records. Pesticides.*
- 10-231a, c, and d. Pesticide applications at schools.*
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 7 U.S. Code 136 et seq.*
- PA 07-168 An Act Banning Pesticide Use on School Grounds.*

Policy adopted: August 27, 2007

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, CT

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Hazardous Material in Schools

Pesticide Application

The District shall:

1. Utilize only certified pesticide applicators (vocational agricultural schools exempted) for any non-emergency pesticide use in school buildings or on school grounds.
2. An emergency application of pesticides is defined as when an application of pesticides is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat to human health and where it is impractical to obtain the services of a certified pesticide applicator provided such emergency application does not involve a restricted use pesticide as defined in CGS 22a-47. Restricted use pesticides may be used only by certified applicators or under their direct supervision.
3. At the beginning of each school year, the Board of Education shall provide the staff of each school and the parents/guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a written statement of the Board's policy on pesticide applications. Such statement shall also be provided to the parents/guardians of any child who transfers to a school during the school year.
4. The aforementioned required statement shall indicate to staff, parents and guardians that they may register for prior notice of school pesticide applications.
5. Parents/guardians and staff may register for prior notice of pesticide applications. Each school shall maintain a registry of persons requesting such notice. Prior to the application of pesticides within any building or on school grounds, the parents/guardians who have registered for prior notice shall receive an automated telephone call using the district's Parentlink system and a notice sent home with his or her child no later than 24 hours prior to the application. Staff who have registered for such notice shall be notified by any means practicable.
6. The aforementioned notice shall include the (1) name of the active ingredient of the pesticide to be applied, (2) the target pest, (3) location of the application, (4) date of application, (5) the name of the school administrator or his/her designee who may be contacted for further information.
7. No application of pesticide may be made in any building or on school grounds during regular school hours or during planned activities at the school except for an emergency application.

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Pesticide Application (continued)

8. If an emergency application is necessary to eliminate an immediate threat to human health, such application shall not involve a restricted use pesticide and no child may enter the area of such application until it is safe to do so according to the provisions on the pesticide label.
9. In cases of an emergency application the above prior notice laid out in section 6 is not necessary except that on or before the day the application is to take place, prior notice is given to those persons who have previously requested such notice by any means practicable.
10. A copy of the records of each pesticide application at a school shall be maintained for five years.
11. Potentially harmful substances such as insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides or other pesticides shall be chosen for the low levels of toxicity. The least toxic formulations and safest methods of application will be selected when there is a choice of products with comparable effectiveness. Whenever practical, non-chemical controls shall be used.
12. Storage of harmful products will be kept to a minimum. Only enough of the product for a given application shall be purchased. All storage instructions will be followed explicitly. All such products and the application equipment will be stored away from other activities and especially separated from food products or occupied rooms. All storage facilities will be maintained as a locked area and clearly marked as containing pesticides.
13. All pesticide products will have complete label instructions, will remain in the original container and the Material Safety Data Sheet will be on file and readily available to any employee who must handle such materials or who may have been exposed to the product. This information shall also be available to any member of the public upon request.
14. All applications of harmful products will be made in strict compliance with label instructions.
15. Prior to application of any harmful substance, a written plan for that application will be filed in the district's business office and approved by the *Director of Buildings and Grounds*.

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Pesticide Application (continued)

16. The plan will contain the purpose of the application, product to be used, formulation of the product, location and extent of the area to be treated, type of equipment to be used, date and time of application, and amount of the product to be used. Any warnings that would restrict use of the area following such application also will be part of the plan and will be appropriately posted to notify the public.
17. Treated school grounds will be posted as required by Statute.
18. District employees responsible for handling and applying pesticides shall have specific pesticide training and shall possess the proper certification required by State Statute.
19. When the district contracts with a private, state-licensed pest control company, such contractors will be subject to regulations as defined in state statutes.
20. The *Director of Facilities* shall be the contact person for providing information regarding pesticide application activities at the schools and maintaining records of pesticide-application notifications.
21. The building principals shall be responsible for giving oral and written notification of pesticide applications as required.

Oral and Written Notice

All oral and written notification shall contain the information indicated in item # 6 above. During the regular school session, prior to pesticide application, notification shall be provided as indicated below.

- Oral notification to all students and school employees shall be provided by means of the school public address system or assembly communications or staff meeting announcements or any similar means reasonably calculated to provide sufficient notice in advance of pesticide application. (suggest minimum 48 hours advance notice)
- Parents and guardians and staff who have registered for advance notification of pesticide use shall be informed as listed in item # 5 above.

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Posting of Notice

Not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to pesticide application, signs shall be posted to identify pesticide application areas. The signs shall display:

- The words "Warning Pesticides."
- The date and time of the planned application.
- Pesticide product to be used.
- Instructions on when areas may be used for recreational purposes.
- A telephone number for the school contact person and one for the licensed pesticide applicator.

The signs shall be placed at:

- The main entrance to all buildings where pesticide is to be applied.
- The playing fields where pesticide is to be applied.

The signs may be removed no less than forty-eight (48) hours after the pesticide is applied.