

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Material in Schools**

#### **Pesticide Application**

In conformity with all applicable statutes, the intent of this policy is to ensure that staff, students, and parents/guardians receive advance notice of pesticide applications in school buildings or on school grounds. Further the District will only employ certified pesticide applicators for any non-emergency pesticide use in the school buildings or grounds. However, someone other than a certified pesticide applicator may apply a pesticide in an emergency to eliminate an immediate human health threat when (1) it is impractical to obtain the services of a certified pesticide applicator and (2) a restricted use pesticide is not used

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.

A “**microbial pesticide**” is defined as a pesticide that consists of a micro-organism as the active ingredient.

A “**biochemical pesticide**” is defined as a naturally occurring substance that controls pests by non-toxic mechanisms.

A “**lawn care pesticide**” is defined as a pesticide registered by the EPA and labeled according to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for lawn, garden and ornamental use. Lawn care pesticide does not include a microbial pesticide or biochemical pesticide registered with the EPA, horticultural soap or oil registered with the EPA and does not contain any synthetic or synergist or a pesticide classified by EPA as an exempt material.

**Integrated Pest Management** is the use of all available pest control measures, including the judicious use of pesticides, when warranted, to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level while decreasing the use of pesticides. Such plan is consistent with an applicable model plan provided by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection under section 22a-661.

The Avon Board of Education 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.

The application of lawn care pesticides on the grounds of schools with students in grade eight or lower must be according to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. Such application is prohibited except in emergencies. An emergency application, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions, may be made to eliminate a human health threat in any school with students through grade eight as determined by the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee.

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Material in Schools**

#### **Pesticide Application** (continued)

As required by state statute, the District shall:

- Annually inform parents/guardians and staff of the District's pest application/management policy and a description of any pesticide applications made during the previous school year. Such notification of pesticide applications shall be sent through the District's electronic mail notification or alert system or service and additionally through the printing of the required electronic mail notification in the applicable parent handbook or manual. (Such notification must be made not later than March 15 annually and cover the period of March 15 through December 31 from the preceding calendar year.)
- Establish a registry of parents/guardians and staff who want to receive advance notice of all pesticide use and provide such notice.
- Provide notice of planned pesticide application to students, parents/guardians and employees. Such notification to parents/guardians shall be made not less than twenty-four hours prior to such application through utilization of the District/school website and the primary social media account of the school or District. The website shall also include information regarding how parents/guardians may register for prior notice of pesticide applications.
- Make pesticide applications only after regular school hours or planned activities.
- Maintain written records for five years of all pesticide applications.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-231b. Pesticide applications at schools: Authorized applicators. Exception, (as amended by PA 09-56)

10-231c. Pesticide applications at schools without an integrated pest management plan. (as amended by June 2015 Special Session PA 15-5)

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.

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Material in Schools**

#### **Pesticide Application** (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

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.

Policy adopted: April 21, 2015

AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Avon, Connecticut

## **Business and Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Materials in Schools**

#### **Pesticide Application**

In determining when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means, the District shall follow the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall ensure that the District follows the IPM so as to use the most appropriate and least toxic method of control.

Procedures shall include the following:

1. The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or not feasible. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be taken.
2. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be used whenever possible to provide the desired control. Cost or staffing considerations alone will not be adequate justification for use of chemical control agents.
3. The pest and the site of infestation shall be carefully identified. Strategies for managing the pest will be influenced by the pest species and whether that species poses a threat to people, property or the environment.
4. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, the least hazardous material will be chosen and applied in accordance with EPA registered label directions.
5. Pesticides shall be stored in a secure site not accessible to students or unauthorized staff. Such storage and any disposal of the pesticide shall be in accordance with EPA - registered label directions.
6. Staff, students and parents/guardians shall receive information about the District's IPM and notification of any upcoming pesticide treatments. The notice of pending pesticide application must take place not later than twenty-four hours prior to such application by posting the notice either on or through the website of the school where such application will occur or on the District website in the absence of a school website and the primary social media account of the school or District. Also to be posted on the District's website is how parents/guardians may register for prior notice of pesticide applications. Notice of upcoming pesticide treatments shall also be posted in areas designated by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.
7. The following records shall be maintained at each school site:
  - a. Records of pesticide use at the site for a period of five years.
  - b. Pest surveillance data sheets that record the number of pests or other indicators of pest populations that verify the need for treatments.

## **Business and Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Materials in Schools**

#### **Pest Management/Pesticide Application** (continued)

8. Persons applying pesticides shall follow label precautions and shall be trained in the principles and practices of IPM.
9. Sanitary measures shall be enforced and buildings regularly cleaned and repaired in order to prevent infestations, minimize the use of pesticides and to eliminate routine spraying.
10. 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. *(Note: Restricted use pesticides, classified by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency or the DEP are those which may present a hazard to the applicator or other people by reason of acute dermal or inhalation toxicity or which may have an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment.)*
11. At the beginning of each school year, the Avon Board of Education shall provide the staff of each school and the parents/guardians of each child enrolled in each school with written guidelines on how the Integrated Pest Management plan is to be implemented and shall provide the parents or guardians of each child enrolled in each school with a statement that shall include a summary of the integrated pest management plan for the school. Such statements and descriptions shall also be provided to the parents/guardians of any child who transfers to a school during the school year.
12. The aforementioned required statement shall indicate to staff, parents and guardians that they may register for prior notice of school pesticide applications. The emergency notification procedures to be used will be described.
13. 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, persons who have registered for prior notice shall be notified not less than twenty-four hours prior to any pesticide application by posting the notice either on or through the school's website where the application will occur, or on the District's website if the school does not have one, and the primary social media account of the school or District. The District's website must indicate how parents may register for prior notice of pesticide applications by any means practicable on or before the day that any application of pesticide is to take place at a school.

## **Business and Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Hazardous Materials in Schools**

#### **Pest Management/Pesticide Application** (continued)

14. 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 on school property, (4) date of application, (5) the name of the school administrator or his/her designee who may be contacted for further information.
15. 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, subject to applicable Connecticut statutory and regulatory provisions.
16. 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.
17. In cases of an emergency application, prior notice 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.
18. The application of lawn care pesticides on the grounds of schools with students in grade eight or lower must be according to an IPM. Such application is prohibited 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 and/or his/her designee.
19. Annually, not later than March 15, the District is required to send through its electronic mail notification or alert system a listing of notices for application of pesticides made during March 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> from the preceding calendar year and those made from January 1<sup>st</sup>. This electronic mail notification is also to be printed in any applicable parent handbooks or manuals.