

## **PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Mansfield Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and properly maintained environment for all staff, students and visitors. To achieve this end, the School District will implement integrated pest management (IPM) procedures for its buildings and grounds.

The integrated pest management procedures will include implementation of appropriate prevention and control strategies, notification of certain pesticide and herbicide uses, record keeping, education and evaluation.

Integrated pest management procedures will determine when to control pests and what method of control to choose. Strategies for managing pest populations will be influenced by the pest species, location and whether and at what population level its presence poses a threat to people, property or the environment. The full range of action alternatives, including no action, will always be considered.

### **I. OVERVIEW AND GOALS**

1. The Mansfield Public Schools will develop and implement an integrated pest management program.
2. An integrated pest management program is a pest control approach that emphasizes using a balanced combination of tactics (cultural, mechanical, biological, chemical) to reduce pests to a tolerable level while using pesticides and herbicides as a last resort to minimize health, environmental and economic risks.
3. Pesticides and herbicides will be used only as a last resort, based on a review of all other available options.
4. The integrated pest management program will strive to:
  1. Reduce any potential human health hazard.
  2. Reduce loss or damage to school structures or property.
  3. Minimize the risk of pests from spreading in the community.
  4. Enhance the quality of facility use for school and community.
  5. Minimize health, environmental and economic risks.

### **II. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES**

1. When pesticides or herbicides are used, they must be classified as an EPA Category III or IV. Application of any pesticide or herbicide may be performed only by certified applicators.
2. If possible, application of pesticides and herbicides will be accomplished during a school break or when the building will be clear of students for at least 48 hours. If outdoor applications are applied while school is in session, the application may not be applied unless students are more than 150 feet away from the area as required under the District's IPM plan. In

## **PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY**

addition, there will be no access to treated areas for 8 hours after the application.

### **III. NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE USE**

1. When pesticides or herbicides are used outdoors, a 48-hour pre-notice of their use will be provided to parent/guardians and staff by email (including the product name, purpose, application date, time and method and the Material Safety Data Sheet.) The application notice will also be posted in a common area of each school and on the town and district websites, Signs will be posted on treated property.
2. When pesticides and herbicides are used in a building, the application will take place after school hours, the site will provide a 48-hour pre- notification in the form of posting the product name, purpose, application date, time and method and the Material Safety Data Sheet on all entrance doors. A contact person will also be listed. The application notice also will be emailed to parent/guardians and staff and will be posted on the town and district websites.
3. In the event of an EPA-registered pesticide or herbicide application in or around a building site during the school year or summer session, a 48-hour pre-notification email notice of their use will be provided to parent/guardians and staff, including the product name, purpose, application date, time and method and the Material Safety Data Sheet. The application notice will also be posted in a common area of each school and on the town and district websites. Signs will be posted on treated property.

### **IV. RECORD-KEEPING**

1. The District will maintain an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) with the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and in compliance with the Act to Protect Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides. This plan is a record of pesticides and herbicides used, amounts and locations of treatments and will keep any Material Safety Data Sheets, product labels and manufacturer information on ingredients related to the application of the pesticides or herbicides.
2. All records of pesticides and herbicides used and correspondence will be available for public review upon notice and during normal school hours.

### **V. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES AND EDUCATION**

1. Designated staff (Food Services, Buildings and Grounds, etc.) will participate in sanitation and pest exclusion procedure appropriate to their roles. For example:

**PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY**

- keeping doors closed, repairing cracks, removing food waste within 12 hours, keeping lids on garbage receptacles and keeping vegetation properly out.
2. Ongoing education of all appropriate District staff will be a priority to ensure a safe and clean environment.

Reviewed: February 09, 2021  
May 2018

Revised: January 24, 2017

LEGAL REF.: Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2000, “An Act to Protect Children and Families from Harmful Pesticides”