

Integrated Pest Management Policy for the Ballston Spa School District

A. Background:

Pests pose significant threats to the health and safety of students and school staff as well as to the integrity and utility of school buildings and grounds. Pesticides used to manage pests can similarly endanger human health and welfare, cause adverse environmental impacts and interfere with the use of school facilities. It is the goal of the Ballston Spa School District to manage pests to prevent unacceptable impacts while reducing the use of chemical pesticides. In all pest management decisions, the health and safety of students and staff will be the primary consideration.

B. Policy:

It is the policy of the Ballston Spa School District to utilize an integrated pest management strategy to accomplish these goals. Primary emphasis will be on long-term prevention of pest problems by maintaining conditions that are not conducive for the development of problem infestations. This shall include the sanitation and physical maintenance of the buildings and grounds and proper education for all members of the school community. Numerical and/or descriptive action threshold tolerances for pests encountered in and around the buildings will be established, and a process to implement pest monitoring programs to detect and evaluate pest infestations against threshold tolerances shall be implemented. Should a pest infestation exceed an established tolerance, a least-toxic progressive response shall be implemented. The progressive response actions shall include, but not be limited to: physical removal, procedural changes, physical modifications, horticultural modifications, use of traps, barriers and biological agents. The establishment of threshold tolerances and progressive response actions shall be made by the Facilities and Security Department in collaboration with the District Safety and Health Committee.

Pesticides shall be used only as a last resort, and only when other progressive responses have shown to be unavailable, infeasible, or ineffective. Pesticides shall not be used for purely aesthetic problems. If pesticide use has been determined to be necessary then selection will be based upon careful consideration of the adverse effects associated with the proposed pesticide and the potential for exposure associated with its proper use. Routine scheduled pesticide applications, and applications by fogging will not be permitted. Containerized baits, crack and crevice treatments and spot treatment of problem areas will be the preferred alternative, after a determination has been made that pesticide use is unavoidable. It is the desire and intent of the Ballston Spa School District, through the use of non-toxic agents, to eliminate the use of pesticides within the School District.

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C: Notification:

The requirements of the **Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law**, section 409-H of the Education Law shall be adhered to by the Ballston Spa School District. Compliance actions for this law shall include the following actions:

1. Written notification to all staff and persons in parental relation of pesticide applications.
2. A statement that pesticide products may be used periodically throughout the school year.
3. A statement that schools are required to maintain a list of list of staff and persons in parental relation who wish to receive 48-hour written notice prior to the application of pesticides.
4. Instructions on how to register with the school to be on the School-specific 48-hour notification list.
5. The name and a contact number of the school representative for further information.
6. The issue of four written notifications of the above information:
 - a. At the start of the school year,
 - b. Within 10-days of the end of the school year,
 - c. Within two school days of the end of the Winter recess, and,
 - d. Within two school days of the end of the spring recess.
7. The written notifications shall also include the date, locations and product used for each application, which required prior notification, and each emergency application made during the reporting period.

If pesticides must be used, the following conditions will apply:

1. All pesticide applications will be performed by a certified pesticide applicator.
2. All school community members on the School-specific 48-hour notification list shall be notified within required time limits by the office of Facilities and Security.
3. As required by law, each 48-hour notice shall include the following statement:

“This notice is to inform you of a pending pesticide application to a school facility. You may wish to discuss with the designated school representative what precautions are being taken to protect your child from exposure to these pesticides. Further information about the product(s) being applied, including any warnings that appear on the label of the pesticide(s) that are pertinent to the protection of humans, animals, or the environment, can be obtained by calling the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network Information phone number 1-800-858-7378 or the New York State Department of Health Center for Environmental Health info line at 1-800-458-1158.”

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C: Notification (continued)

5. The notification shall also include the name of the school pest management coordinator and a contact number for additional information.
4. Areas treated with pesticide will be posted before, during and after the application.
5. Accurate records shall be maintained in the office of Facilities and Security recording:
 - a. The product applied, to include EPA product registration number,
 - b. The amounts applied,
 - c. The areas treated, and,
 - d. Records of pest infestation levels before and after treatment
6. Should an emergency pesticide application be required to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort to supply the written notice required by this section shall be made. The required reporting to the Commissioner of the Department of Health shall be made immediately following such an application.

D: Authority:

In order to properly implement this policy, the School District shall appoint a pest management coordinator who will be the primary individual responsible for implementing this policy. These responsibilities will include research, development and implementation of appropriate site-specific pest prevention strategies, determination of pest tolerance thresholds, and establishment of monitoring programs and pest identification procedures. The coordinator will also be responsible for the preparation of contracts for pest management activities, oversight of all pest management activities and training and education for District personnel.

The School District shall also charge the Safety and Health Committee to assist the coordinator in the implementation of this policy.