PESTICIDES AND PEST MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education (the Board) of the Bethlehem Central School District (the District) 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 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. Provisions will be made for a least toxic approach to integrated pest management (IPM) 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 nontargeted organisms.

Notification of Pesticide Application

Board of Education approval is required for any application of certain pesticides/herbicides. All District staff and parent(s) and/or guardian(s) will be notified of pesticide applications performed at any school facility, upon request. A notice will be sent at the beginning of the school year that will include:

1. Notification of periodic pesticide applications throughout school year.

2. The availability of forty-eight-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 contact information for the school representative who can provide further information.

A separate notice will be sent to staff and parent(s) and/or guardian(s) within two days of the end of winter and spring recess and within ten days of the end of the school year that includes the date, location, and product used for each pesticide application which required prior notification and each emergency application.

The superintendent and/or the Health and Safety Coordinator shall ensure the dissemination of this policy and conduct any training necessary to ensure that all staff are fully informed about pesticides and pest management.

Cross-ref: 8110, School Building Safety
8220, Building and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection

Ref: Environmental Conservation Law, Art.33 (Pesticides)
Education Law 409-h (Requirements for Notification of Pesticide Applications)
6 NYCRR Part 325 (Application of Pesticides)
Child Safe Playing Fields Act (Education Law 409k)
8 NYCRR 155.4 (Uniform Code of Public School Building Inspections, Safety Rating and Monitoring)
IPM Workbook for New York State Schools, Cornell Cooperative Extension
   Community IPM Program with support from New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, August 1998

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