

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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To: Parents, Guardians, Teachers & Staff

From: Robert K. Francis, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Date: August 2015

Topic: **Pest Management and Pesticide Application Program**

Regional School District #13 has developed policies and procedures for managing pest populations that pose a threat to people, property or the environment. The intent of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, staff and all others using District buildings and grounds. The goal of this pest management program is to manage pests in order to:

- Reduce any potential human health hazard and/or to protect against a significant threat to public safety;
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property;
- Prevent pests from spreading in the community or to plant and animal populations beyond the site;
- Enhance the quality of life and to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff and others.

The District has developed an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to manage structural and landscape pests and the toxic chemicals for their control in order to alleviate pest problems with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and whether to use mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means. Chemical controls will be used as a last resort. No pesticide applications were applied during the past fiscal year (July 2014 – June 2015).

Legislation requires that all schools employ a certified pesticide applicator for any non-emergency use of pesticides in and around school buildings. Regional District #13 employs a professional licensed applicator to handle our General Pest Control Program. This company performs routine inspections, makes recommendations for corrective measures (such as repairs, filling cracks and mushy floors) and utilizes baits and traps to treat specific problems. The Integrated Pest Management Program expands and improves our current procedures while insuring the District meets all the requirements of this legislation.

The Integrated Pest Management Program uses a common sense approach by utilizing all methods of pest control to decrease the pests' access to food and their desirable habitat. The program requires: routine monitoring to identify potential problems; making recommendations for corrective

measures; record keeping of inspections, sightings, recommendations and all applications made and the use of pesticides after all the available options are deemed unacceptable or not feasible starting with the least toxic. A copy of this IPM Program will be maintained at each school in the administrative office.

District 13 does not utilize any pesticides inside of any school buildings and has not at any time over the past fifteen (16) years. The District does not routinely apply any pesticides to our playing or ball fields. We do apply an organic fertilizer to all ball fields on a routine basis throughout the year.

In the event of an emergency situation that is deemed to pose a potential threat to human health, the application of a pesticide might be indicated. This will be done only after approval is received from CT DEP and all notifications required and might include; a notice sent home with the student, email, posting on the District website, phone calls or a posted notice at the site.

A copy of our Pest Control Management and Pesticide Applications Procedures, the IPM Program, related policies and procedures, sighting logs, monitoring reports, and pesticide application reports will be maintained in a binder at each school. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Rob Francis at 860-349-7238.