

RSU #14 Notice Regarding School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policies

Pest Control

The use of pesticides can pose risks and RSU #14 follows the IMP approach whenever a pest or weed problem occurs. The first step to control insects, rodents, and weeds at the schools focuses on making the buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests and weeds to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, the available food and water sources are reduced or eliminated and hiding/nesting places for the pests removed. Through monitor/inspections of the school areas to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques used may include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal, good turf and plant care, and--as a last resort--pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Pesticide Use

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the RSU will use the lowest risk approach available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and advance notice will be sent out via e-mail.

Your Right to Know

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified about certain pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications that occur during regular school year (excluding vacations). In addition, for pesticides applied anytime during the year, notices will also be posted in the school and on school grounds two working days before until 48 hours after the application. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of pest monitoring, pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting Facilities Director Bill Hansen at 892-1800.

For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm.