

File: EBAB**PEST MANAGEMENT**

The Sharon Public Schools shall develop and implement an integrated pest management program which 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. The full range of action alternatives, including no action, will always be considered.

The integrated pest management approach shall be designed to:

- a) Reduce any potential human health hazard;
- b) Reduce loss or damage to school structures or property;
- c) Minimize the risk of pests spreading in the community; and
- d) Enhance the quality of facility use.

When pesticides or herbicides are used, they must be classified as an EPA Category III or IV material. Application of any pesticide or herbicide may be performed only by certified applicators. Unless deemed an emergency situation by the Superintendent, application of pesticides and herbicides may only be accomplished during a school break or when the building will be clear of students for at least 48 hours. When pesticides or herbicides are used outdoors, notice of their use will be provided to parents, staff and students and will also be posted in a common area. Unless deemed an emergency situation by the Superintendent, when pesticides and herbicides are used inside a building, the site will provide a 48-hour prior notification. Such notification shall include posting of the product name, purpose of use, application date, time and method and the Material Safety Data Sheet on all entrance doors. A contact person will also be listed.

If application of an EPA-registered pesticide or herbicide is determined to be necessary in or around a building site when school is in session, a notice (including the product name, purpose, contact person, and application date, time and method), will be sent to parents at least 5 days prior to application. If the Superintendent, in consultation with experts, determines the situation to be an emergency, the 5-day prior notice may be waived, but parents of any children affected should be informed promptly.*

The District will keep a public record of pesticides and herbicides applied, including 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.

Legal Ref.: M.G.L. 132B, Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act

*Historical note: In 2011, after discovery of cases of mosquito-borne Eastern Equine Encephalitis near Sharon, state and local health officials advised prompt spraying to kill mosquitos in specific areas near schools.

Revised: June 6, 2012