

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member:

I am writing about three subjects that can affect children's health while in school. They are; pests, pesticides, and your right to know.

PEST CONTROL -

Because pesticides pose risks, RSU 9 uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds in our District focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pest from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pests exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal, and as a last resort pesticides. This holistic approach is often called (Integrated Pest Management).

PESTICIDE USE -

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the District will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites. Parents, guardians, and staff have a right to know.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW -

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticides applications made in our District. Notification will be given at least five days prior to planned pesticides applications. Notification need not be given for pesticides applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to students or staff.

The District also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the schools Integrated Pest Management Policy and the pesticides in School's Regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM Coordinator, Nicole Ibarguen, Custodial Supervisor, at 108 Learning Lane, Farmington, Maine, 04938, or telephone 207-778-4307.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Ibarguen. 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 website at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm .

Very Truly Yours,

Nicole Ibarguen
Custodial Supervisor
IPM Coordinator
School Safety Specialist