

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
ASD MEMORANDUM #199 (1999-2000) February 14, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: REVISION TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY SECTION 731.5 — PEST MANAGEMENT (FIRST READING)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on first reading the Revision/Addition To School Board Policy Section 731.5 - Pest Management, Attachment A.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School District's overall method of pest control was called into question last summer by the Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) group through their Pesticide Right-to-Know Campaign. ACAT had several major objectives: help the District design a notification plan when pesticides would be used; ban the use of certain chemicals; and develop a least toxic pest management policy. Of particular interest was ACAT's request that the District discontinue the annual preventive application of Sevin pesticide before the start of the school year. Sevin's active ingredient is carbaryl, which ACAT targeted as a suspected endocrine disrupter.

ACAT sought to participate on a committee to develop a new pest management plan and public policy statement. Initially, however, the District selected an in-house committee to develop the draft Pest Management Plan, including the Directors of Operations, Risk Management, and Student Nutrition, and a Principal.

Following completion of the original draft in October, the District forwarded copies to ACAT and to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for their review and comment. ACAT responded with several recommendations, and through a course of meetings and working sessions with ACAT, the attached policy and plan were collaboratively attained. ADEC reported that the draft appeared to be based on tried and true programs of other state school pest management programs and was acceptable to them.

The School Board Policy Subcommittee reviewed the proposed policy statement, 731.5 Pest Management, and also the Anchorage School District Pest Control Plan, on January 6, 2000. At that time, the Subcommittee recommended that the District make minor revisions to the policy and submit it for approval by the School Board.

The District did include and the School Board approved in the FY2000-2001 budget the addition of a new position, Pest Management Technician, to be able to appropriately manage and monitor the Pest Control Program. It is anticipated that the additional position will allow the Administration to implement the Pest Control Program in an effective manner across the District's 89 schools and other support facilities.

BC/EC/SS

Attachments

Prepared by: Stanley Syta, Director of Operations

Approved by: Ed Conyers, Executive Director, Physical Plant

Attachment A

Proposed Policy Statement:

731.5 Pest Management

The Superintendent shall establish a pest management plan to actively promote a healthy and safe school environment for students and staff. The Anchorage School District will use procedures that safely prevent and control pests while avoiding the unnecessary use of toxic chemicals. Pesticides may pose risks to human health and the environment, with special risks to children. The District will use non-chemical pest prevention and control measures first (such as sanitation and caulking), with pesticides used only as a last resort. The District will provide notification to students, parents/guardians and staff if a facility is to receive pesticide treatment as detailed in the District's pesticide management plan.

Attachment B

Anchorage School District Pest Control Plan

The goal of the ASD's pest management plan is to actively promote a healthy and safe school environment for students and staff. The Anchorage School District will use procedures that safely prevent and control pests while avoiding the use of toxic chemicals. Pesticides may pose risks to human health and the environment, with special risks to children. The ASD will use non-chemical pest prevention and control measures first (such as sanitation and caulking), with pesticides used only as a last resort.

Pests

Pests are populations of living organisms (animals, plants, or microorganisms) that may interfere with the human purposes at school facilities.

Pest Management

The Anchorage School District will implement an approach to pest management to:

- Reduce any potential human health or safety hazard.
- Prevent loss or damage to school structures or property.
- Prevent pest populations from spreading beyond the school site.
- Enhance quality of life standards for students, staff, and others.

Pest Management Procedures

The Anchorage School District will implement pest prevention and management strategies with the following guidelines:

- Least disruptive of natural controls.
- Least hazardous to human health.
- Minimize negative impacts to non-target organisms.
- Least damaging to the school and natural environment.
- Most likely to produce long-term reductions in pest control requirements.

The pest management program will provide regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed to prevent damage or health problems. Educational, physical, mechanical, and biological measures of prevention and control will be given priority over chemical measures. Pesticides will be used as a last resort only if pests present a health and safety hazard, not for aesthetic or nuisance purposes. If pesticides are used, the ASD will use the smallest amount of the least toxic formulation with the least potential for human exposure. Further, no chemical is permitted for use if it is acutely toxic or proven to cause cancer, hormone disruption, reproductive damage, immune system damage or nervous system toxicity. The ASD will apply the precautionary approach in all pest management decisions to prevent harm to human health and the environment from the use of toxic pesticides that have not been fully tested.

The application of pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 USC 136 et seq.), Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, and state and municipal regulations.

The ASD will form a pest management committee that includes ASD representatives, parents, teachers, students, health professionals, and community representatives to guide the development, implementation, and review of pest prevention and management measures, as well as pest-specific threshold and action levels.

Education

Anchorage School District staff, students, and pest control officials, as well as community groups and the general public will be informed about ways to prevent pest problems and about the pest management policies and procedures.

Record Keeping

Accurate records of pesticide use will be maintained at the Physical Plant Operations Department. Pest surveillance data will also be maintained at the same location to verify any need for chemical treatments.

Notification

The Operations Department will notify any school or facility that is scheduled for pesticide treatment. The individual school or facility will notify students, parents, or guardians, and staff of upcoming treatments by posting notices in designated areas, and by sending notices home with students. When appropriate, neighboring facilities and/or the general public will also be notified through direct contact and/or the media. The school or facility will provide at least 48-hour advance written and posted notification to parents, staff, and students if pesticides are to be applied, with signs to remain posted for at least 72 hours after application.

The contractor will supply the District with label instructions and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each proposed chemical. Although not required by law, the ASD will make every effort to obtain full disclosure of all ingredients in chemical formulations—inert as well as active. Label information, MSDS and additional information will be available for public review in the school(s) where the pesticide may be applied.

Pesticide Purchase and Storage

No pesticides will be purchased or stored by the Anchorage School District. Any application of pesticides will be accomplished by contract with a professional pest management firm licensed and registered by the state of Alaska. The contractor must obtain approval to use specific pesticides for specific pests, as approved by the District. The contractor shall not store any products or equipment within school property, spill any chemical products, leave any

equipment or pesticide containers unsupervised on school property, or dispose of pesticide containers or equipment in dumpsters or trash containers on school property.

Pesticide Applicator Personnel

Pesticide applicators must be licensed by the state of Alaska and directly employed and supervised by the contractor. The applicators must comply with the ASD Pest Management Plan. Any pesticide application will follow in strict accordance with label directions, precautions, and all governing laws and regulations.

The Anchorage School District point of contact for pest management will be the Director of Operations.