

Carl Sandburg Elementary Pest Management Policy

Statement of principles

Because the health and safety of students and staff is our first priority, and a prerequisite to learning, Carl Sandburg Elementary will manage vegetation and pests without the use of herbicides or high-hazard pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and fungicides). As a school community, we will emphasize pest prevention and proactive pest control. We will use physical, mechanical, cultural, biological, and educational tactics as primary controls, in lieu of chemical pesticides. Only least-toxic pesticides will be used, and only when necessary to protect human health or safety.

Pesticide Use and Selection

Pesticides will only be used if necessary for the health and safety of students and staff of Carl Sandburg Elementary. Only least-toxic pesticides will be used. Least-toxic pesticide means a pesticide for which all of the following are true:

- a. Pesticide is not classified as highly acutely toxic (Toxicity Category I) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- b. Ingredients in product have been evaluated by the U.S. EPA and found to include no possible, probable, known or likely carcinogens;
- c. Ingredients in product include no reproductive toxicants (CA Prop 65 list);
- d. Ingredients in product not listed by Illinois EPA as known, probable or suspected endocrine disruptors;
- e. Active ingredient has soil half-life of 30 days or less (unless the active ingredient is a mineral);
- f. Active ingredient has extremely low or very low mobility in soil;
- g. Product is not labeled as toxic to fish, birds, bees, wildlife, or domestic animals.

No pesticide will be used if the school does not have information on all pesticide ingredients.

No routinely scheduled (e.g. seasonal, monthly, or weekly) pesticide applications will be made. No pesticide fogging or space spraying will be done. Insecticides will be used only in containerized baits, or for spot treatments targeted to insect nests or problem areas where a minimal amount of material will be used. Cost and staffing are not sufficient justification for use of a pesticide.

Notification and Timing

For all pesticide applications at Carl Sandburg Elementary, pesticide notification signs shall be posted at the treatment site, at a central area in one building, and at every entry point at least 72 hours prior to any pesticide application. Signs shall remain in place for at least one week after pesticide application.

Written notice shall be provided to students, parents, guardians and employees 72 hours in advance of any pesticide application.

Posted and written notices shall begin with a header containing the signal word from the pesticide label alongside the words "Pesticide Application." For example, "WARNING: PESTICIDE APPLICATION." Notices shall be at least 8-1/2 by 11 inches, and shall include the following information: the pesticide's active ingredient; the date and time of

pesticide application; the area treated; the rate of application; the name and phone number of the contact person for the application; the name and phone number of the responsible party where the pesticide label and material safety data sheets may be obtained; and a boxed-off warning stating: "CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide exposure."

The above notification procedures do not apply to containerized baits, so long as they are inaccessible to children.

Any pesticide application will be timed for maximum protection of human health and beneficial organisms. Any pest control activities will be conducted in consideration of effects on classroom activities.

Recordkeeping

Carl Sandburg Elementary will maintain records of pesticides used, amounts and locations of treatments, and the target pest. Other pest control measures will also be documented. Pesticide use and pest control records, pesticide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), pesticide product labels, and manufacturer information about all pesticide ingredients will be on file at the school.

School staff, parents and students will have access to all records upon request.

Pest Management Committee

Carl Sandburg Elementary will establish a Pest Management Committee to monitor and assist with the implementation of this policy. The committee will include parents, school staff, and interested community members, and will communicate regularly to address policy implementation issues. As appropriate, the committee will plan and coordinate pest prevention and landscape maintenance efforts, such as volunteer workparties and mulching.

Progress Review

At the beginning of each school year, Carl Sandburg Elementary will provide written information to staff, students, and parents regarding pest control activities at the school. This information will include the names of all compounds that may be used.

The school will annually review its pest management program to evaluate how well its pest prevention and control objectives are being met, and to identify areas where improvement is needed. The school will prepare a report containing the following information:

- a. Quantities of each pesticide applied during the previous year;
- b. Target pest for each pesticide used;
- c. Non-chemical pest prevention and control measures used;
- d. Pest management plan for the coming year.

The report will be provided to the site council and made available to the public upon request. Summary information and notice of the annual report's availability will be provided to each student and his/her parents or guardians at the time of registration and each employee at the start of employment.

Any proposals for pesticide use must be approved by the Pest Management Committee or other committee consisting of parents, staff, and community members.

Right to Appeal

Parents, staff, and neighbors of Carl Sandburg Elementary may appeal pesticide use plans to the Pest Management Committee. Notification of this right will be provided at the beginning of the school year, as well as with any additional notification of a particular planned use of pesticides during the school year. The Pest Management Committee will consider all appeals received up to three days prior to the planned pesticide application. Appeals received within three days prior to the application will be considered by the superintendent.

Identification and Notification of Sensitive Individuals

Carl Sandburg Elementary will maintain a registry of chemically-sensitive students, staff, or others requesting special consideration in the event of the use of pesticides. The school will provide personal notification to these individuals two weeks prior to any planned pesticide use, and will make an effort to address their concerns and special needs relative to such pesticide applications.