



BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Director of Maintenance
43 Mount Rock Road
Newville, PA 17241

July 1, 2024

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The Big Spring School District uses an Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. Our goal is to protect every student, employee, and visitor from unnecessary pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these crawling, flying, or growing pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and preventive maintenance. We routinely monitor the school buildings and grounds to detect any pests that are present. The pest monitoring team consists of our building maintenance, custodial, office and teaching staff and includes our students as well. Pest sightings are reported to our IPM coordinator who evaluates the “pest problem” and determines the appropriate pest management techniques to address the problem. The techniques can include enhancing sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, and removing the pest(s) physically.

From time to time, we may find it necessary to use chemicals to manage a pest problem. Chemicals will be used only when necessary and will not be applied routinely. When chemicals are used, the school will try to use the least toxic product when possible, and chemical applications will be made only after normal school hours. We will post notices in these areas for three days prior to any chemical application and for two days following the chemical application.

Parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school, as well as school district employees, may request prior notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must contact us so that your name can be placed on the school notification registry. If you would like to be placed on the registry, please notify us in writing at the address listed above. Please include your email address if you would like to be notified electronically. If you believe that you are hypersensitive to pesticides, you may want to contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (717-787-4392 or www.agriculture.state.pa.us/plantindustry/) to inquire about their Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry.

If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem (e.g., stinging insects), we will provide notice by telephone to any parent or guardian or employee who has requested such notification in writing. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and anti-microbial products; self-containerized baits placed in areas not accessible to students; gel-type baits placed in cracks, crevices, or voids; and swimming pool maintenance chemicals.

Each year the district will prepare a new/updated notification registry. If you have any questions, I ask that you please contact me at: 776-2000 ext.1604.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Drawbaugh
Director of Maintenance