



WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Environmental Health and Safety

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals

FROM: Sneha Atwal, Director

DATE: Friday, August 29, 2008

RE: Annual Notification of Pest Management Program

The Wake County Public School System has adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy for managing insect and rodent intruders at our schools. IPM is a holistic, preventive approach to managing such pests. IPM minimizes pesticide use in our schools and on school grounds. For the last ten years WCPSS has concentrated on removing pest habitats from schools rather than using pesticides for pest management. For the purpose of this notification, pesticides fall into two (2) categories: The first is “exempt” pesticides that are relatively low risk/non-toxic. The second is “non-exempt” pesticides having relatively higher risk/toxicity. As of July 1, 2007, “non-exempt” pesticides **are NOT used** inside any WCPSS building. We are the first school system in North Carolina to achieve this level of “green” pest management. Occasionally, “non-exempt” chemicals are still used on outside grounds to treat pests like wasps, hornets, and fire ants that do not respond to other treatments.

WCPSS is required under the recently adopted "School Children's Health Act" [(NCGS 115C - 47 (45) (a)] to notify all students’ parents, guardians, and custodians as well as school staff of the schedule of “non-exempt” pesticide use in and on WCPSS property. Further, the statute requires WCPSS make available any updates to the schedule upon request.

The Environmental Health and Safety Department has prepared an annual "**Notification**" and "**Request for Notification**" documents to comply with statute-specific guidelines. These two documents are located on the WCPSS internet website in the “Parents” section. The web page address is <http://www.wcpss.net/pest-management/>.

We request that schools send a copy of this memo home with each student and staff member. This additional step ensures statutory notice compliance. WCPSS is required to provide such public notice. In essence, we must inform the public that they can request notice of any future changes to our current policy. We appreciate your cooperation in meeting this notification requirement.

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