

Pest Control Policies and Procedures

Purpose: *This policy is intended to ensure that school facilities and grounds provide a healthy, safe school environment for students, staff, and community members and that the school administrator takes action to ensure that all measures to create this environment are in compliance with NM State Codes.*

Policy: Pursuant to Subsection C of 6.29.1.9 NMAC (*Duties of the Superintendent*); Subsection D of 6.12.6.8 NMAC (*School District Wellness Policy*); and 6.19.3 NMAC (*Unsafe School Choice Option*), the Raices school administrator shall ensure that all buildings, facilities and grounds provide a safe and orderly environment for public use by taking action in accordance with standards set out in the NM Codes. Following are the standards that will be applied to making decisions aimed at pest control inside the Raices school building and the outside grounds as provided in:

1. Definitions found in 6.29.1.9(P)(6) NMAC
 - a) “Pesticide” means any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest.
 - b) “Pest” means any living organism injurious to other living organisms, except humans, viruses, bacteria or other microorganisms in or on other living organisms other than plants, which is declared to be a pest pursuant to the *Pesticide Control Act*, Sections 76-4-1 through 76-4-39 NMSA 1978.
2. Raices will develop procedures for the implementation of pest management with consideration for reducing the possible impact of pesticide use on human health and the environment, including people with special sensitivities to pesticides. Procedures will include, but are not limited to, the following –
 - a) No pesticide may be applied to public school property and no pest control device, as defined in the New Mexico Pesticide Control Act, may be used on public school property except those pesticides and devices currently registered for legal use in the state by the New Mexico department of agriculture.
 - b) No pesticide may be applied to public school property except by those persons certified in the applicable category and currently licensed by the New Mexico department of agriculture or by employees under their direct supervision.
 - c) Pesticides will only be applied in or on the outside of school buildings when a pest is present, and will not be applied on a regular or calendar basis unless it is to treat an infestation and is a part of a pest management system being implemented to address a particular target pest. A pest is considered to be present when it is observed directly or

can reasonably be expected to be present based on finding evidence, such as droppings, body parts, or damage that is typically done by the pest. This section of the regulation does not apply to pre-construction termite treatments or the use of outdoor herbicides.

- d) Pesticides that are applied in a liquid, aerosolized or gaseous form through spraying, aerosol cans, bombs, fumigation or injections into the ground, foundation or plants will not be applied on public school property when students, staff or visitors are present, or may reasonably be expected to be present within 6 hours of the application. In emergency cases, where a pest infestation threatens the health or safety of the occupants of public school property, and which requires the immediate application of a pesticide to remediate, students, staff and other school occupants will be removed from the treatment area prior to the application. Small amounts of gel or liquid pesticides applied to cracks and crevices or baits used to treat pest infestation are exempt from this section.
- e) At the beginning of each year, and when new students register, schools will develop a list of parents and guardians who wish to be notified prior to pesticide application during the school year. These parents/guardians will be notified in writing prior to pesticide application. General notification of anticipated pesticide applications will occur by posting or dissemination of notices, by oral communication or other means of communication. In emergency cases where a pest infestation threatens the health or safety of the occupants of public school property, no pre-notification is required. Immediately following the application of a pesticide in emergency cases, signs will be posted indicating an application was made.
- f) Written records of pesticide applications will be kept for three years at each school site and be available upon request to parents, guardians, students, teachers and staff.
- g) If any part of Paragraph (6) of Subsection P of 6.29.1.9 NMAC is found to be in conflict with the provisions of the Pesticide Control Act, the remainder of the regulation will remain in full force and effect.

Procedures to Ensure Compliance with the Above Standards:

1. The principal at Raices will be responsible for ensuring that state regulations found in the Pesticide control act are followed in the use of pesticides to control pest infestation in the School and on the outside grounds.
2. The principal will develop a contract with a local pest control company whose personnel are certified in in the applicable category of pest management for public schools and are currently licensed by the New Mexico department of agriculture or by employees under their direct supervision.

3. The pest control contractor will make monthly inspections in the facility and on outside grounds.
4. The contractor must guarantee that only those pesticides or control devices will be used for pest control, as defined in the New Mexico Pesticide Control Act, as safe to be used on public school property and which are currently registered for legal use in the state by the New Mexico department of agriculture.
5. The principle will develop a system to be managed by the office manager to keep written monthly records of when inspections and treatment for pests occur with the signature of the pest management company employee who carries out the inspection and treatment.
6. These records will be available for three years after the time of the service will be available upon request to parents, guardians, students, teachers and staff.
7. The principal will be responsible for seeing that a list is maintained of parents and guardians who wish to be notified prior to pesticide application during the school year. These parents/guardians will be notified in writing prior to pesticide application.
8. Signs will be posted before and after applications, which will be carried out only when pests are present and in accordance with the standard 2.(d) as cited above with regard to timing and vacating of affected areas by students and all personnel for the time legally required for application of specific approved pesticides.