

NEW AMERICA SCHOOL – Las Cruces

PESTICIDE USE POLICY

Use of pesticides at NAS-LC will be governed by the following standards:

A. Definitions

1. “Pesticide” means any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.
2. “Pest” means any living organism injurious to other living organisms (except man, viruses, bacteria or other microorganisms in or on other living organisms other than plants), which is declared to be a pest pursuant to the New Mexico Pesticide Control Act, NMSA 1978 §§76-4-1 through 76-4-39. PED regulation (6.29.1.9(O)(6) NMAC)

B. With regard to the application of pesticides to school property, it is the policy of NAS-LC to reduce the possible impact of pesticide use on human health and the environment, including people with special sensitivities to pesticides, insofar as is practicable and consistent with applicable laws and regulations,.

C. 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, shall be as follows:

1. 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 school property except those pesticides and devices currently registered for legal use in New Mexico by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
2. No pesticide may be applied to 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.
3. 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 subsection does not apply to pre-construction termite treatments or the use of outdoor herbicides.
4. The least amount of chemicals or treatment possible to effectively control the problem shall be used and applied in the least conspicuous manner possible, using safety precautions.
5. 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 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 and/or safety of the occupants of 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.

6. At the beginning of each year, and when new students register, NAS-LC shall 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 or oral communication or other means of communication. In emergency cases where a pest infestation threatens the health and/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.
7. Written records of pesticide application will be kept for three (3) years at NAS-LC, and such records shall be available upon request to parents, guardians, students, teachers, and staff.

Effective date: March 14, 2013

To be revised: August 2016

Approved by the Governing Council on March 14, 2013

Legal Reference: (6.29.1.9(O)(6) NMAC)

NEW AMERICA SCHOOL – NEW MEXICO

PESTICIDE NOTICE LETTER

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

New America School –Las Cruces has developed procedures for 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.

As part of these procedures, we are notifying parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year, and when new students register, so that NAS-LC can 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 or oral communications or other means of communication.

In emergency cases where a pest infestation threatens the health and/or safety of the occupants of NAS-LC 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. Written records of pesticide applications will be kept for three (3) years at NAS-LC and will be available upon request to parents, guardians, students, teachers and staff.

If you wish to be on the pre-notification list, please complete the form below and return it to your child's school office within the next five (5) school days. If the form is not returned, it will be taken as an indication that you do not wish to receive pre-notification of pesticide use. Should you have any questions, or wish to review the NAS-LC Pesticide Use Policy, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Principal, NAS-NM

Student Name : _____

Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

I wish to receive pre-notification of the use of pesticides at NAS-NM.

Parent Signature

Date