



POLICY: USE OF PESTICIDES

Approved by Governing Council on: July 1, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that pest management practices at Siembra Charter High School protect the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors while maintaining school facilities and grounds in an environmentally responsible manner.

This policy establishes the school's commitment to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in compliance with:

- New Mexico Administrative Code NMAC 6.29.1.9(P)(6)
- Applicable New Mexico Department of Health, Agriculture, and Environment regulations
- Applicable Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) environmental health standards, as adopted or referenced by charter schools

POLICY STATEMENT

Siembra Charter High School shall implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that emphasizes prevention, monitoring, and non-chemical control methods. Pesticides shall be used only when necessary and in a manner that minimizes potential risks to human health and the environment.

The school shall ensure that pesticide use on school property complies with all applicable state laws, regulations, and local requirements.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) APPROACH

The school's IPM program shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

- Preventing pest access to food, water, and shelter
- Maintaining high standards of sanitation and cleanliness
- Structural maintenance, repair, and pest exclusion
- Habitat modification to reduce pest attraction
- Regular monitoring and inspection to identify pest activity early





School buildings, facilities, and grounds shall be maintained to reduce conditions that contribute to pest infestations, including timely removal of trash, food waste, debris, and standing water. Landscaping and grounds maintenance practices shall support pest prevention.

USE OF PESTICIDES

When non-chemical pest management strategies are insufficient, pesticide use may be authorized under the following conditions:

- Only pesticides posing the least hazard to human health and the environment shall be selected
- Pesticides shall be applied only when pests are present or reasonably anticipated, based on monitoring
- Products bearing the signal words “Danger” or “Warning” shall be avoided whenever possible
- Applications shall be targeted and limited to affected areas

Emergency Applications

In emergency situations where pests present an immediate threat to the health or safety of students, staff, or visitors (e.g., stinging insects or disease vectors), the school administration may authorize pesticide use without prior notice. Notification shall occur as soon as practicable following the application.

LICENSED APPLICATORS

All pesticide applications on school property shall be conducted by:

- Licensed and certified pesticide applicators in accordance with New Mexico law, or
- Trained personnel operating under a licensed applicator, as permitted by law.

Contracted vendors must demonstrate compliance with IPM practices and applicable licensing requirements.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The school shall comply with all notification requirements under NMAC 6.29.1 and related guidance, including:

- Providing advance notice (24–48 hours) to staff and families prior to non-emergency pesticide applications
- Posting signage at application sites indicating the date, time, and location of pesticide use
- Maintaining notification records as required

Emergency applications shall be communicated to staff and families as soon as reasonably possible.





RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING

Siembra Charter High School shall maintain pesticide application records, including:

- Date and time of application
- Location of application
- Product name and EPA registration number
- Applicator name and license number
- Reason for application

Records shall be retained in accordance with state requirements and made available upon request.

TRAINING AND OVERSIGHT

The Head Administrator or designee shall ensure that:

- Staff responsible for facilities and grounds receive appropriate IPM awareness training
- Contractors are informed of and comply with this policy
- The school remains informed of guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) School IPM Program and relevant state agencies

IMPLEMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Head Administrator, or designee(s), is responsible for implementing this policy, developing supporting procedures, and ensuring ongoing compliance with New Mexico and APS-related environmental health standards.

This policy applies to all school buildings, grounds, and school-sponsored activities conducted on or off campus.

