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Dear Faculty, Staff and Parents

“Pesticides are chemical or biological substances designed to kill, control or repel a variety of living organisms, such as insects (insecticides), weeds (herbicides), mold or fungus (fungicides) and rodents (rodenticides). They are poisons and their use is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).”

Effective July 1, 2001 Education Law 409-h requires that all public and private schools in New York State establish a Pesticide Notification Procedure.

In accordance with Education Law 409-h each member of the staff, and parents or guardians must receive this notice at the beginning of each school year (or within one week of a student enrollment).

**Each school** in the district is required to maintain a list of staff and parents who wish to receive 48 hours advance written notice of Pesticide Applications, **(to be returned to the students principals office)**. The Enlarged City School District follows a Policy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This is a least toxic approach to pest management. Non-toxic methods are to be used as a first and often second approach. Occasionally a pest problem may develop which will require the application of a pesticide.

In addition, all staff and parents will receive updates three times during the school year. These updates will advise you of any pesticide application applied since the last notice.

“The prior notice requirements do not apply to:

- applications of anti-microbial products (disinfectants), biopesticides or substances exempt from federal pesticide regulation;
- use of pesticides in aerosol cans for personal protection;
- use of nonvolatile rodent and insect baits in tamper-resistant containers or areas inaccessible to children;
- use of silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use paste foam or gel insecticides in areas inaccessible to children;
- use of boric acid and related compounds;
- emergency applications to protect against an imminent threat to human health (which must be immediately reported to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health); and
- applications after which the facility will be unoccupied for at least 72 hours.”

A sample request letter is attached for your reference and use.

For more information contact your building principal.

Sincerely,



R. Garland  
Director of Facilities & Security

**Footnote:** Quotations taken from the Citizens Guide to Pesticide Notification Laws in New York State, Elliot Spitzer, Attorney General.

Cc: Superintendent

# Letter to Request Notification of School Pesticide Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Principal \_\_\_\_\_:

I am the parent [or guardian] of \_\_\_\_\_ [name(s) of student(s)], who attend(s) \_\_\_\_\_ School in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade(s). It is my understanding that, starting July 1, 2001, a new state law will require every school to maintain a list of parents who wish to receive advance notice of pesticide applications at the school their child attends. Each time pesticides are scheduled to be applied at the school, parents on the list must be provided with a written notice at least 48 hours in advance, specifying the specific date and location of the application, the name and EPA registration number of the product being applied, the name and number of a person at the school who can be contacted to discuss the precautions being taken to protect children from exposure, and telephone numbers of information services that can provide specific information about the pesticides being applied.

Please consider this my formal request to be placed on the list to receive those notices and information. If the notices are to be mailed, please mail them to me at the following address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I can be reached by telephone at the following numbers:

\_\_\_\_\_ (day)

\_\_\_\_\_ (evening)

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian