



IPM Standards for Schools:

A Program for Reducing Pest and Pesticide Risks in Schools and Other Sensitive Environments

- How do you know if the pest management practices in your school are the least risk, most effective available?
- Is your school doing as much as possible to prevent and avoid pest problems?
- How many of the available IPM practices is your school implementing?

Children are at greater risk from both pests and pesticides than adults. They breathe and eat more, have more rapid metabolism and more frequent hand to mouth contact. Children play in areas where they are more likely to contact pesticides and insect, rodent and other pests.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) maintains a high standard of pest control while reducing reliance on pesticides. IPM includes regular monitoring to detect problems early; acting against pests only when necessary; choosing the most effective option with the least risk to people and the environment; and applying biological knowledge about pests to create long-term solutions.

IPM Standards for schools, developed in collaboration with school and IPM professionals throughout the US, lists more than **700 IPM practices** for school buildings and grounds. The Standards include more than **250 resources** to help you and your school implement IPM plus references to model legislation, school pest management practice surveys, IPM curricula and project ideas for teachers, directory of organizations with resources for school IPM and school IPM-related headlines from US newspapers; 128 pages in all.

Use the IPM Standards for Schools as a:

Learning Tool. Review the Standards to learn about the many IPM options available. Follow up by reviewing the references listed and discussing practices appropriate for your school with your IPM committee, professional pest control provider, in-house professional pest control staff, administration and interested parents and teachers.

Self-Evaluation and IPM Planning Tool. Use the Standards to score your school. What additional IPM practices can you implement to improve your performance over the next year? The next three years? Use the practices you have identified as priorities to justify pest control budget requests.

School IPM Certification Tool. By meeting certain minimum requirements, your school can become certified as an IPM School.

Many of the IPM practices included in the IPM Standards can be implemented in other sensitive environments, including day cares, nurseries, pre-schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

School IPM Success Stories

The New York City Board of Education, representing approximately 1200 school buildings, has eliminated indoor dust formulations of every kind to reduce airborne particulates; eliminated all "pelleted" rodenticides to reduce risk of movement; eliminated outside rodenticide bait stations, opting to bait and close existing burrows; increased reliance on glue board monitoring as both indicators and supplemental controls; and reduced the use of one group of pesticides from 918 to 22 lbs. per year. Since 1988, the school system has used over 8000 tubes of sealing silicone glue to close potential pest entries. More at http://www.epa.gov/opppbd1/PESP/p&s_pages/nycbe.htm

A demonstration project at two public schools in Santa Barbara County CA reduced costs by 30% and improved effectiveness of the pest control program. More at http://www.grc.org/cec/pubs/IPM_report2.html

The Monroe County School Corporation, Monroe County IN, implemented a pilot IPM program that eliminated 90% of pesticide applications in three elementary schools. More at http://www.epa.gov/opppbd1/PESP/p&s_pages/mcsc.htm

- Excerpt from IPM Standards for Schools

IPM Certification for Schools

By implementing IPM, your school can improve pest management results and reduce liability and risks from both pests and pesticides. Certification clearly establishes your school's IPM achievement in a way that is readily recognized by others both in and outside of your community.

By working towards and achieving IPM Certification, your school will:

- establish a formal schedule for IPM evaluation, planning and training;
- build a professional image and create good will with staff, parents and other community members;
- create an ongoing focus on pest and pesticide risk reduction, ensuring that your school continues to meet the highest standards for effective, reduced-risk pest management; and
- access a package of professionally prepared materials, including a brochure, certificate and window stickers to communicate your accomplishment.

Your school can use these materials to inform parents, teachers, students and others in the community about your IPM program, saving time for busy school professionals, reducing costs and duplication of effort, and facilitating clear and accurate transfer of information.

Certification may also exempt schools from certain legislative mandates or administrative requirements as a clear demonstration that your school has an effective, state-of-the-art IPM program in place. For more about IPM Certification, see the IPM Standards or contact the IPM Institute.

About the IPM Institute

The IPM Institute of North America, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed in 1998. The Institute's mission is to accelerate adoption of IPM in agriculture and communities through consumer education and development of IPM standards for self-evaluation and IPM certification. The Institute's Board of Directors includes IPM experts from Land-Grant Universities and representatives from industry and environmental organizations.

Join the IPM Institute!

Any individual or organization can support the work of the IPM Institute by becoming a member. Members enjoy a periodic newsletter with information about IPM, certified institutions and businesses, and the knowledge that they are supporting the growth and development of IPM certification programs in schools, communities and agriculture. Join by signing on to our Web site, or by mail, phone, fax or e-mail.

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Available in PDF and html formats at <http://www.ipminstitute.org>
or order the bound 128-page document (\$15 postpaid) from:



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