

2017 National School IPM Priorities

Management Priorities

1. Develop sustainable state and federal funding for statewide School IPM Extension, IPM STAR and other programs to meet ongoing, state-specific and general needs (e.g., annual school IPM coordinator training, district performance evaluation, maintenance of reduced-risk pesticides lists for school IPM, in-person and telephone consultations).
2. Coordination with state agencies to disseminate existing and updated IPM-related educational materials.
3. Establish appropriately trained IPM coordinators in school systems to oversee day-to-day implementation of IPM policies and programs including contractor oversight.
4. Develop region-specific IPM decision-making tools, e.g., a decision tree with pest-specific steps to help schools prioritize needs within budgetary constraints and human health impacts.
5. Engage environmental health and safety professionals, connect school and childcare IPM with broader environmental health, fire safety, energy efficiency, food safety initiatives at school district, state and national level, e.g., U.S. Green Building Council, Green Seal, environmental management systems.
6. Identify, educate and activate appropriate school-related organizations to embed IPM into the organizational culture, including ongoing continuing education opportunities for members, e.g., network with NEA and other school stakeholder groups to integrate IPM into association messaging.
7. Track adoption of IPM practices in schools and disseminate economic, environmental and/or health impacts of IPM, e.g., district self-assessments, case studies, research data, utilize state report cards to help determine training needs and goals.
8. Establish a relationship with the National IPM Coordinating Committee to promote priorities for policy and policy-maker education.
9. Establish a go-to-person for assistance in each state.

Educational Priorities

1. Increase awareness, engagement, commitment and effectiveness of superintendents, principals, teachers and local, state and federal policy makers, including risk-reduction, environmental, health and cost benefits, and student and staff health and performance.
2. Increase awareness and adoption of Stop School Pests, a product of the National School IPM Working Group, as an affordable, flexible, adaptable platform for professional development for key school roles.
3. Hands-on school IPM coordinator training at school sites, including state-specific rules and regulations, and how to provide effective oversight of structural, landscape and public health pest management contractors.

4. Promote best pest prevention practice standards for schools to use with vendors of pest management services, design and construction services, custodial services, food and drink product service providers, etc., e.g., *Pest Prevention by Design*.
5. Collaborate with organizations, such as the Professional Pest Management Alliance and IPM Voice, to increase basic awareness and understanding of the concept of IPM (and the acronym) among mass media, policy makers and the public.
6. Revisit and improve working group marketing and outreach strategies, e.g., develop learning labs which travel from school to school covering specific pest topics, market IPM in conjunction with other environmental movements, create more interactive training materials such as YouTube videos.
7. Promote inclusion of IPM lessons into post-secondary education programs for students planning to enter key school roles.
8. Translate education materials into Spanish and other non-English languages.
9. Education to transfer the latest research on low-risk turf and landscape management practices.
10. Improve the performance of school districts as vehicles for IPM implementation at home.
11. Partner with pest management professionals and organizations to facilitate and increase the number of effective, economical IPM service relationships, e.g., service provider and school district decision-maker education.

Research Priorities

1. Research the cost of IPM, including: implementation and education versus conventional pest management, conduct a cost analysis for misapplication of pesticides (indoor and outdoor), calculate the cost savings of exclusion practices, e.g., ancillary benefits of IPM and conduct a comparative analysis of the cost of pest control in-house versus contracted out (all costs).
2. Research the impacts of pesticides and pests on children's health, (asthma, allergies, absenteeism, grades, ADHA,) academic performance and safety factors.
3. Develop IPM best practice standards for custodial and school health roles.
4. Identify effective low-risk products and tools to manage pests and measure IPM continual improvement. Develop low-cost analysis tools and conduct in-depth inspections of schools to determine what pest management practices are really being used.
5. Research the impacts of pest management practices on indoor and outdoor school environmental health, e.g., school well water, school gardens and use of adjacent properties.
6. Compile and make recommendations for updating state requirements and resources for school IPM.
7. Measure the awareness of and attitudes towards IPM among school community members through the assessment of their satisfaction with IPM, e.g., success stories of IPM adoption.
8. Research the most effective methods for third-party assessment of the quality of services provided to schools by pest management professionals. Research corporate

avenues for financial support of high level IPM in schools, e.g., cleaning and supply companies.

9. Research effectiveness of methods for using school districts to improve IPM implementation in homes.
10. Research the geographic distribution of structural and landscape pest species and rate of expansion.

Regulatory Priorities

1. Create and mandate minimum standards for school IPM at federal level, e.g., established through high level IPM training/certification for pest management professionals. Advocate for change at federal level, e.g., School Environmental Protection Act, No Child Left Behind, Highly Hazardous Pesticides Act.
2. Establish IPM policies in school systems to institutionalize the commitment to IPM, e.g., establish and share Parent /Teacher Association school IPM models/restrictions; incorporate IPM into school wellness legislation; state school board adoption of IPM policy.
3. Develop organizations and strategies for influencing change that will result in state Department of Education, Health and Safety regulations and policies that call for IPM, e.g., seek state legislator champion to present successful legislation at the annual National Conference of State Legislators.
4. Continue to promote interagency cooperation among regulatory, environmental, health, insurance, education, State and Federal, Cooperative Extension and other agencies. Implement and enforce existing IPM laws and policies (regarding verifiable standards) at the highest level of economic and regulatory accountability.
5. Develop a model compliance agreement for use by state lead agencies with violators of states pesticides and/or school IPM regulations, i.e., regulations with “teeth”.
6. Establish or use existing diverse local stakeholder committees to advocate for policies and procedures that implement proven IPM strategies and practices, e.g., develop and disseminate a protocol for grassroots implementation to increase effectiveness of local advocates, partner with National Pest Management Association, Beyond.
7. Work to incorporate IPM strategies into building codes.
8. Quantify costs and benefits to regulatory agencies and the public for enforcement of school IPM regulations and advocate for adequate funds.
9. Establish minimum students’ rights for environmental health standards in schools and include students and teachers in OSHA-like protections.