

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW OF STATE LAWS

Part of the ELI Series

[Topics in School
Environmental Health:
Overview of State Laws](#)

Environmental Law Institute

Why is this Issue Important for School Environmental Health?

Effective pest management is necessary for providing a sanitary school environment and for reducing asthma triggers. However, the use of chemical pesticides can harm the environment and may impact the health of school occupants. Students and school staff can be exposed to pesticides through inhalation or contact with the skin or eyes. EPA describes a wide range of potential negative health effects from exposure to pesticides, depending on the type of pesticide used – from harm to the endocrine and nervous systems to skin/eye irritation and cancer. Integrated pest management (IPM) is a safer, cost-effective, more environmentally-sustainable way to manage pests. IPM incorporates a wide variety of strategies emphasizing prevention, monitoring, and the careful use of least-hazardous pesticides after other non-chemical strategies have been exhausted.

For more information on:

Pesticide health effects: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-science-and-assessing-pesticide-risks/human-health-issues-related-pesticides>

IPM in schools: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-05/documents/ipm_in_schools_brochure.pdf

What Types of State Policies are Included in this Overview?

This Overview includes state laws and regulations that address integrated pest management in schools, though it does not necessarily provide an exhaustive listing of such policies. To the extent that the laws and regulations covered here establish other provisions relating to pesticide use in schools (restrictions, notification, etc.), those other provisions are noted briefly. However, state laws and regulations that address pesticide use in schools but do not explicitly address IPM are not covered. For additional information on school pesticide notification and application requirements, see Beyond Pesticides, [State and Local School Pesticide Policies](#).

Many states have adopted laws and regulations on IPM in schools. About two-thirds of the policies summarized here *require* schools to develop an IPM plan or program, though these laws vary in the extent to which they establish minimum elements of an IPM plan. Similarly, while most of the policies covered here include a definition of IPM, the definitions vary.

States covered in the summary chart below: CA, CT, DC, FL, IL, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MT, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OR, PA, RI, TX, UT, VA, WV

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

STATE & CITATION	SUMMARY OF LAW/REGULATION	LAW /REG REQUIRES IPM PROGRAM OR POLICY?
<p>CALIFORNIA Ca. Food & Agric. Code §§ 13180 et seq.; Ca. Educ. Code §§ 17608 et seq</p> <p>Ca. Educ. Code § 33541; Ca. Pub. Res. Code § 71301</p>	<p>The California Healthy Schools Act requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation to promote and facilitate the voluntary adoption of IPM programs by schools. The agency is required to: establish a model IPM program consistent with the law’s IPM definition; develop an IPM program guidebook; maintain an internet web site with IPM and pesticide information; and establish an IPM training program. The law requires the DPR to collect from pesticide applicators records of pesticide use in schools. The law also requires school IPM coordinators and anyone who may apply a pesticide at a school to take a DPR-approved training course before making a pesticide application and at regular intervals thereafter. The course must include instruction on IPM and “the safe use of pesticides in relation to the unique nature of schoolsites and children’s health.” A bill enacted in 2018 (A.B. 2816) amends the existing education code provisions of that Act require the DPR to submit a report to the state legislature on or before January 1, 2021, that “evaluates the implementation, and the effect of the implementation, of the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 and that provides recommendations on improving the implementation and efficacy of the [Act].”</p> <p>California education and environmental protection laws require that IPM be included in the state’s environmental education curricula and principles.</p>	NO
<p>CONNECTICUT Ct. Gen. Stat. § 22a-66l</p> <p>Ct. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-231a—231d</p> <p>Ct. Admin. Code § 16a-38k-3</p>	<p>Connecticut environmental law authorizes schools that contract for pest control services to establish bidding procedures that require contractors to supply IPM services. The law authorizes the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to develop model IPM plans and directs the agency to notify school boards and others of the availability of the model plans.</p> <p>Connecticut education law requires schools that have adopted an IPM plan consistent with the state model to provide school staff with guidelines on implementing the plan and to provide parents/guardians with a description of the plan. Schools without an IPM plan must notify staff and parents/guardians of the school board’s policy on pesticide application and provide a description of any pesticide applications made the previous school year. The law enables parents/guardians to register for prior notice of pesticide applications, requires schools to post prior notice on its internet web site and primary social media account, and requires an annual notice of applications made in the preceding year. The law further bans the application of lawn care pesticides on the grounds of any public or private school serving grade 8 or lower.</p> <p>Connecticut energy law requires state-funded construction, including certain school building projects, to meet minimum high performance criteria, including establishment of an IPM plan consistent with the state model plan.</p>	NO NO YES [newly constructed schools]

<p>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA D.C. Code § 38-825.01</p>	<p>D.C. education law requires the District Department of General Services, which is responsible for building and maintaining D.C. public schools, to establish an IPM program.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>FLORIDA Fl. Admin. Code § 6A-2.0010</p>	<p>Florida education regulations adopt the state Board of Education’s State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF), governing construction, maintenance, and operation of public schools. The SREF requires school boards to establish maintenance and sanitation policies and procedures that include: “Operating pest management programs in accordance with the EPA’s Integrated Pest Management in Schools guidelines...which employ the use of effective measures to prevent harborage, propagation, or infestations of rodents, flies, cockroaches, and other insects on school premises.”</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>ILLINOIS 225 Il. Comp. Stat. § 235/10.2; 77 Il. Admin. Code § 830.710</p>	<p>Illinois structural pest control law directs the Department of Public Health to prepare guidelines for an IPM program for structural pest control at schools and authorizes the Department to provide IPM training to schools. The law also provides that, when economically feasible, schools must develop and implement an IPM program that incorporates the state guidelines and must assign a designated person to implement the IPM plan and oversee pest management practices. Schools must notify the Department every 5 years that they are implementing an IPM program. The law provides more detailed state notification and staff training requirements for school districts that determine an IPM program would not be economically feasible. Health regulations implementing the law authorize administrative fines for failure to follow and observe the IPM requirements.</p>	<p>YES [if economically feasible]</p>
<p>LOUISIANA La. Stat. §§ 3:3381--3389; La. Admin. Code tit. 7, Pt. XXI, § 1111</p>	<p>Louisiana agriculture law requires the governing authority of each school to submit annually to the state Department of Agriculture an IPM plan that strongly recommends the least toxic methods of control for grass, weed, rodent, and pest control and that includes information specified in the law. Each local school board must submit a single, comprehensive IPM plan for all schools under its jurisdiction. The annual IPM plan must be available for review upon request by the Department and the public. Schools must inform the Department of any deviation from their submitted plan at least 24 hours prior to any pesticide application. Pesticides may only be applied by certified applicators, who must receive training in IPM that includes pest prevention, least toxic methods of pest control, and applying pesticides judiciously. The law also establishes recordkeeping requirements and restrictions on when pesticides may be applied at schools. State agriculture regulations affirm the IPM requirements in the law.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>MAINE 01-026 Code Me. Rules Ch. 27, § 2</p>	<p>Maine pesticide control regulations require all public and private schools to adopt and implement a written policy for the application of IPM techniques in school buildings and on school grounds. The regulations: require pesticide applicators to choose the “lowest risk products;” restrict how pesticides may be used; require schools to maintain a Pest Management Activity Log with specified information; and establish detailed notice provisions regarding the school’s IPM program and pesticide applications. The regulations also require schools to</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>appoint an IPM Coordinator to lead implementation of the IPM policy and to be responsible for: coordinating pest monitoring and pesticide applications; making sure all notice requirements are met; completing state-approved training; authorizing pesticide applications not exempted by the law; and making IPM information available to parents, guardians, and staff upon request.</p>	
<p>MARYLAND Md. Agric. Code § 5-208.1; Code of Md. Regs. § 15.05.02.03</p>	<p>Maryland pesticide control law requires county boards of education to develop and implement in their schools an IPM system approved by the state Department of Agriculture. The law requires the Department to develop uniform standards and criteria for implementing IPM systems in schools and on school grounds. Pursuant to the law, county boards must designate a contact person for handling IPM inquiries and maintaining information for all pesticides that may be used in the school district. The law also requires schools to provide specified advance notice of pesticide applications to staff and parents/guardians upon request. Regulations implementing the law set forth additional notification requirements and specify minimum elements of an IPM system, including: an IPM policy; procedures for regular inspections; a range of pest management strategies; staff education and training; and record-keeping and decision-making procedures.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>MASSACHUSETTS Ma. Gen. Laws Ch. 132B, §§ 2—6; 333 Ma. Code Regs. §§ 14.01—14.11</p>	<p>Massachusetts agriculture law requires schools to: adopt and implement an IPM plan; file a copy of the IPM plan with the state; make a copy available to the public upon request; and review the plan annually. The law directs the Department of Agricultural Resources to produce a model IPM plan that can be adopted by schools. Regulations implementing the law prohibit the use of pesticides on school indoor and outdoor property unless the school has established and maintained an IPM plan containing elements specified in the regulations, including: a description of the school’s IPM communication and training programs for staff; a list of pesticides to be used; a list of non-pesticide control techniques and preventative methods to be used; and the school location where the IPM plans and records are available for viewing. The law and regulations also restrict the types of pesticides that may be used on school property, prohibit the use of pesticides in specified situations, and establish notification requirements in connection with pesticide applications.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>MICHIGAN Mi. Comp. Laws §§ 324.8316, 324.8325; Mi. Admin. Code R285.637.14</p>	<p>Michigan environmental law prohibits the application of pesticides in a school unless there is an IPM program in place for the building. The law restricts when pesticides may be applied, requires advance notification of pesticide applications, and directs schools with IPM programs to inform parents/guardians annually that they may review the program and pesticide application records. The law also requires the state Department of Agriculture to: develop and disseminate a model IPM policy for schools; encourage school boards to adopt and follow the policy; and develop rules governing training programs for IPM in schools. State agriculture regulations require that before any pesticide application is made in a school, the pesticide applicator must have participated in an approved IPM training program, and the building in which the pesticide is to be applied must have a written IPM program in place.</p>	<p>NO</p>

<p>MINNESOTA Mn. Stat. § 121A.30</p>	<p>Minnesota education law addressing pesticide notification in schools establishes that school boards may only notify students, parents, and employees that they have adopted an IPM plan if that plan is a “managed pest control program designed to minimize the risk to human health and the environment and to reduce the use of chemical pesticides” and if the plan ranks the school district’s response to pests in the manner specified in the law. State agriculture laws (Mn. Stat. §§ 17.3114, 18B.305) direct the Department of Agriculture to coordinate a state approach to use of IPM and require the state to promote and facilitate IPM through education, technical or financial assistance, information, and research.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>MISSISSIPPI Ms. Code § 37-11-71</p>	<p>Mississippi education law addressing the management of asthma directs the state Department of Education to require each public school district to implement an IPM program that includes: procedural guidelines for pesticide applications; education of building occupants; and inspections and monitoring of pesticide applications. Pursuant to the law, the IPM program may limit the frequency, duration, and volume of pesticide application on school grounds.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>MONTANA Mt. Admin. Regs. § 37.111.846</p> <p>Mt. Admin. Regs. §§ 4.10.202, .205</p> <p>Mt. Code § 80-8-404</p>	<p>Montana health regulations require schools to develop and implement an approved Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program beginning September 1, 2021. The school administrator must, whenever practical, ensure the use of nonchemical methods to control pests, including proper sanitation practices, structural repair, and window screens, and must notify students, parents, and staff when chemicals for IPM are going to be used.</p> <p>Montana agriculture regulations governing licensing of pesticide applicators establish a “school integrated pest management” licensing classification for applicators using pesticides in the school environment under a model IPM program. The regulation requires such applicators to demonstrate a practical knowledge of IPM principles and of the pesticides registered for school use.</p> <p>Montana agriculture law establishes that the Department of Agriculture may develop a model IPM safety program for schools and other facilities under supervision. The model program guidelines and recommendations must emphasize “special information and recommendations for protecting the affected populations from exposure to pesticides and from the acute or chronic potential adverse health effects of pesticides.”</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>NO</p>
<p>NEVADA Nv. Stat. §§ 386.422 et seq.</p>	<p>Nevada education law requires school districts to establish “an integrated pest management policy for controlling pests and weeds.” School districts must appoint a chief integrated pest management coordinator, and certain employees of a school district to be certified in integrated pest management (if the certification is available at no additional cost to the school district by a non-profit). The law also prescribes minimum required contents of such an IMP policy, including (1) a procedure for monitoring the property of the district to determine when pests or weeds are present and, when pest or weed problems are significant, to take corrective action; and (2) written guidelines for determining when specific measures should be taken to control pests and weeds, which prioritize the use of preventive measures, use of nonchemical pest or weed management, and use of pesticides in a manner that creates the lowest possible risk to health and safety. School districts must ensure that at least 10 percent of custodial or maintenance employees hold an IPM certification that meets minimum requirements set forth in the law, provided the certification is available at no additional cost to the district.</p>	<p>YES</p>

<p>NEW JERSEY N.J. Stat. §§ 13:1F-19--13:1F-33; N.J. Admin. Code §§ 7:30-13.1--7:30-13.9</p>	<p>New Jersey pesticide control law requires public and private schools to: adopt an IPM policy consistent with the model policy developed by the Department of Environmental Protection; designate an IPM coordinator to implement the policy; and provide specified notice of the policy to the school community. The law also restricts when schools may apply pesticides that are not “low impact” pesticides as defined in the law and requires schools to provide advance notice of application of these pesticides. The law authorizes administrative orders for violations. Regulations implementing the law establish the necessary elements of an IPM policy and require each school to develop and implement a site-specific IPM Plan. The regulations also set forth the training requirements for IPM coordinators, the recordkeeping and notification requirements for schools, and the administrative enforcement procedures available to the Department.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>NEW YORK N.Y. Code Rules & Regs. tit. 8, § 155.4</p>	<p>New York education regulations require boards of education and cooperative educational services to establish comprehensive maintenance plans that include “provisions for a least toxic approach to integrated pest management.”</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>NORTH CAROLINA N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 115C-12, 115C-47</p>	<p>North Carolina education law requires local boards of education to adopt policies that require the use of IPM. The law also requires the state Board of Education to establish IPM guidelines that are consistent with the policy of the North Carolina School Boards Association, Inc.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>OHIO Oh. Rev. Code § 921.18; Oh. Admin. Code §§ 901:5-11-14--15</p>	<p>Ohio agriculture law requires the state Department of Agriculture to establish standards governing the development and implementation of IPM practices. Agriculture rules require those who develop and implement IPM activities at schools to undertake a variety of activities, including: conducting a comprehensive site assessment of the property; determining measures to aid in prevention, elimination, or control of pests, while minimizing exposures; establishing a strategy for ongoing site monitoring and assessment; and evaluating the results of IPM activities to determine whether pest management methods were effective and exposure risks sufficiently minimized. The rules also restrict when and how pesticides may be applied in schools and establish requirements for notification of pesticide applications at schools.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>OREGON Or. Stat. §§ 634.700 et seq.</p>	<p>Oregon pesticide control law requires all schools to adopt an IPM plan that meets several criteria specified in the law. The law requires schools to adopt a list of low-impact pesticides for use in conjunction with the IPM plan, but prohibits the inclusion of pesticides that are classified as human carcinogens or probable human carcinogens, or that have labels including the words “warning” or “danger.” The law also establishes restrictions on the application of pesticides when students are present. Pursuant to the law, schools must have a designated IPM plan coordinator whose responsibilities include: providing required notification of pesticide applications; overseeing pest prevention efforts; determining least hazardous pest management measures; ensuring proper performance of pesticide applications; evaluating pest management results; and keeping required records. The law establishes civil penalties for violations.</p>	<p>YES</p>

<p>OR. St. § 332.331; Or. Admin. Rules 581-022-2223.</p>	<p>Oregon law and regulations require each school district and public charter school to develop and annually update a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan which includes, among other things: “Provisions for carrying out integrated pest management practices as provided under ORS 634.700 to 634.750.”</p>	
<p>PENNSYLVANIA 24 Pa. Stat. § 7-772.1 24 Pa. Stat. § 5-510.2</p>	<p>Pennsylvania education law requires public schools to adopt an IPM plan consistent with the IPM policies set by the state Department of Agriculture. The law requires the Department to assist schools in developing IPM plans and to prepare a standard structural IPM agreement that schools may use.</p> <p>A 2016 Pennsylvania education law requires school districts to post the IPM plan required under state law on their public web site.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>RHODE ISLAND R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-25-37</p>	<p>Rhode Island pesticide control law requires the state Department of Health and Department of Environmental Management to develop regulations for, among other things, the “promotion and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM)” as defined under state law. The law prohibits the application of pesticides during school hours and requires schools to provide staff and parents/guardians with information about pesticide applications.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>TEXAS Tx. Occup. Code § 1951.212; 4 Tx. Admin. Code §§ 7.201--7.204</p>	<p>Texas structural pest control law requires school districts to adopt an IPM program that incorporates state standards and to designate an IPM coordinator. The law directs the state Department of Agriculture to establish standards for school IPM programs that include a requirement to use the least toxic methods available and to adopt a rule listing categories of pesticides that school districts may apply. Pursuant to the law, the Department must inspect each school district at least once every 5 years for compliance with the IPM requirements. Regulations under the law specify the elements of the required school IPM program, which include: an IPM policy as outlined in the regulations; a monitoring program; the preferential use of lower risk pesticides and non-chemical strategies; and a plan for educating employees about their roles in the program. School districts must appoint an IPM Coordinator to: implement the IPM program; coordinate pest management personnel; implement record-keeping requirements; and ensure that pesticide use complies with the program. The regulations require applicators to obtain written approval from the school IPM coordinator for the use of pesticides. The regulations also establish restrictions on the use of pesticides, as well as notification requirements for pesticide applications.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>UTAH Ut. Admin. Rules § 392-200</p>	<p>Utah health regulations governing school sanitation and operation require public and private schools to have a written IPM plan and to adopt IPM practices and principles. The regulations require the plan to incorporate several elements, including: a policy statement; implementation and education; pest identification, monitoring, reporting, and control practices; approved pesticides; procedures for pesticide uses; applicator requirements; and a policy for notifying parents, students, and staff. The regulations also direct schools to use non-chemical management methods “when possible” and to use a full range of control alternatives, to include considering “taking no action” in cases where the pest has no public health or property damage significance.</p>	<p>YES</p>

<p>VIRGINIA Va. Code § 22.1-132.2</p>	<p>Virginia education law requires the state Department of Education to make available to school boards information on IPM programs that appropriately address the application of chemical pesticides and other pest control measures on school property. The law also requires local school divisions to maintain documentation of all pesticide applications, including information about the target pest, the formulation applied, and the specific location of the application.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>WEST VIRGINIA W.V. Code §§ 19-16A-4, 18-5-9b; W.V. Admin. Code §§ 61-12J-1 et seq.</p>	<p>West Virginia pest control law requires the state Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules establishing an IPM program that includes specified elements. The state education law requires local boards of education to implement the IPM program established by the Department. The Department's rules require public and private schools to develop, maintain, and submit to the Department an IPM program that includes: a policy statement; pest management objectives; IPM education for building occupants; inspection and monitoring activities; an evaluation of IPM strategies being used; and action thresholds for common pests. The rules also establish requirements for: building surveys, monitoring and inspections; prior notification of pesticide applications; restrictions on use of certain pesticides; and recordkeeping. Schools are prohibited from applying pesticides unless monitoring as specified in the rules indicates that pests are present, and schools are required to use the least hazardous pest control method that is practical and effective, as outlined in the law. The rule requires certified professionals applying pesticides in a school to be certified in the sub category of Urban Integrated Pest Management.</p>	<p>YES</p>

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