

THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HEALTHY SCHOOL

The Healthy Schools Act

What is a Pesticide?

What is IPM?

What Pesticides Cannot Be Used at Schools?



The California Healthy Schools Act (HSA) was enacted in 2000. It is a right-to-know law that provides parents and staff with information about pesticide use taking place at public schools and child care centers (except family day care homes). The law encourages the adoption of effective, lower risk pest management practices, also known as integrated pest management (IPM).

The goals of the HSA are to address the health and environmental concerns associated with the use of pesticides at schools and child care centers and to assure healthy learning environments for California children. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is charged with carrying out the HSA.

What is a Pesticide?

A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. Disinfectants, insecticides, herbicides, sanitizers, fungicides, and repellents are all considered to be pesticides.

**Benefits of IPM:
Reduces exposure to pests
and pesticides**

What is IPM?

IPM is an approach to pest management that focuses on long term pest prevention and takes advantage of all pest management strategies using pesticides only when absolutely necessary. Using IPM techniques saves money, time, and minimizes potential pesticide exposure to people and the environment!

What Pesticides Cannot Be Used at Schools?

Some pesticides are prohibited from use at schools. These products are found on the DPR School IPM website in the “Pesticides prohibited from use in schools and child care facilities” list. This list is updated regularly by DPR, so check this list when adding new products to the annual notification list. Other pesticides that cannot be used at schools include products that have cancelled or suspended registrations or require phase out of use. Check the DPR California Product/Label Database to see if your pesticide products have active registration status.

What the Healthy Schools Act Requires for Schools

Identify an IPM Coordinator : The IPM Coordinator is a school district employee who helps to ensure that the district is meeting the requirements of the Healthy Schools Act (HSA).

Create an IPM plan : An IPM plan provides information about how pests are managed at each school district. The IPM Plan must be posted on the school district website; if a school district does not have a website, then the IPM plan must be sent home to all parents and staff.

Provide annual written notification : Each school district must send all parents and staff a written notification of pesticide products expected to be applied during the school year. Pesticides to be applied by contracted pest control businesses need to be included in the notice.

Create a registry : Parents and staff that want to be notified 72 hours before every pesticide application must be given the opportunity to register with the school district.

Post warning signs : Warning signs provide information about when, where, and why a pesticide application was made. Warning signs must be

posted around the treatment area 24 hours before pesticide application and must remain posted for 72 hours after application is complete.

Keep records : Records of pesticide use must be kept on site for four years and this information must be made available to the public, if requested.

Report pesticide use : All pesticides, (even herbicides) applied by school staff must be annually reported to DPR. This can be reported more frequently. Schools and child care centers do not have to submit reports for pesticides applied by contractors. Contractors are responsible for submitting their own reports.

What the Healthy Schools Act Requires for Schools



PESTICIDE USE REPORTING FOR SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE CENTER EMPLOYEES									
STATE OF CALIFORNIA		COUNTY		CITY		SCHOOL DISTRICT		SCHOOL NAME	
NAME & ADDRESS AND/Or Identify if School or Child Care Center		County	Date & Time Application Completed	Location Code (if or where time up on back)	Manufacturer & Name of Product Applied	EPACalifornia Registration Number from Label	Amount Used (indicate use of resources)	Class (indicate use of resources)	Other (indicate use of resources)

Use this form to report ONLY pesticide applications made by employees and unlicensed persons at schools and child care centers. DO NOT report pesticide use by pest management professionals contracted to apply pesticides at schoolsites. They will report their own use. Report must be submitted no later than January 31st of the year following the year of use to: School Pesticide Use Reporting, Department of Pesticide Regulation, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015.

Complete training : All staff who apply or use pesticides, including disinfectants, and sanitizers, and herbicides, must complete DPR-approved HSA training each year prior to any pesticide application that year. Training must be completed before any applications take place.

What the HSA Requires When a School District Hires a Licensed Pest Control Business

How the Department of Education can help



What the Healthy Schools Act (HSA) Requires When a School District Hires a Licensed Pest Control Business

If a school district hires a licensed pest control business to make pesticide applications at schools, the IPM Coordinator is still responsible for making sure that all HSA requirements are met. In your contract bid, make sure that your contractor will provide information before and after pesticide applications, so that the IPM Coordinator has enough time to provide notifications, post warning signs, and keep records. The IPM Coordinator does not submit pesticide use records for applications made by a hired contractor—the licensed pest control business will submit their pesticide use reports to DPR.

How the Department of Education (CDE) can help

CDE acts as an advisory resource for school districts and other local education agencies.



- Provides information to school managers, county/regional meetings, and professional groups.
- Provides resources for districts to consider in school design to support IPM methods and strategies.
- Reminds and advises school districts regarding best practices, HSA regulations, annual notification to parents, annual reports of pesticide use, training requirements (effective July 1, 2016), differences in regulations for child care centers located on school campuses, and use of property not owned by the school district that meets the statutory definition of "schoolsite".

CDE also provides HSA liaison to charter schools that are subject to sections of the California Food and Agriculture Code even if their charter may exempt various provisions of the Education Code.

IPM: Is a series of pest management evaluations, decisions, and actions

How the Department of Pesticide Regulation can help

About the Department of Pesticide Regulation



How the Department of Pesticide Regulation can help

- Provides IPM training to school district staff, including hands-on training conducted at schools throughout California. DPR also creates and provides materials and information on Integrated Pest Management.
- Acts as a resource to school and child care staff, pest management professionals, parents, teachers, and the public by providing practical IPM resources and helping to implement IPM at these sites.
- Offers HSA compliance assistance to school staff and pest management professionals by creating simple, fillable forms for meeting the HSA requirements, such as the school IPM plan, pesticide use reporting forms, and template warning signs.

IPM: Promotes a healthier school environment

About the Department of Pesticide Regulation

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) protects human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use and by fostering reduced-risk pest management. DPR's oversight includes product evaluation and registration, environmental monitoring, residue testing of fresh produce, and local use enforcement through the county agricultural commissioners. DPR is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency, and is responsible for carrying out the HSA.



Resources

[Healthy Schools Act templates](#)

[DPR California Product and Label Database](#)

[Exempt Products Flowchart](#)

[HSA video series](#)

[HSA Training](#)

Contact: Lisa Estridge

Phone: (916) 445-2489

E-mail: school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov