

THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT

Every Child Deserves a Healthy Schoolsite

WHAT IS THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT ?

When pesticides are used at schools and child care centers in California, the Healthy Schools Act defines requirements for school and child care center staff, pest management professionals, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. The California Legislature originally passed the law in 2000. The Healthy Schools Act also encourages schools and child care centers—collectively referred to as schoolsites—to adopt effective, low-risk pest management practices, also known as integrated pest management or IPM.

WHAT IS IPM ?

Integrated pest management, or IPM, focuses on effective, low-risk pest management practices. IPM is a big picture approach to pest management that considers people and the environment when pest management decisions are made. There are a variety of IPM practices, including cleaning regularly, closing gaps into buildings, fixing leaky pipes, setting traps, and choosing low-risk pesticides. With the amount of IPM information available today and an enthusiastic IPM leader, all schoolsites can successfully manage pests!

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE ?

A pesticide is any substance intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. Pests include insects, rodents, weeds, and germs. Insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides, sanitizers, and disinfectants are all pesticides.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT REQUIREMENTS ?

IDENTIFY



Choose an IPM coordinator who will make sure the requirements of the HSA are met.



TRAIN

Provide annual Healthy Schools Act training to all teachers, staff, and volunteers who use any pesticides, including exempt pesticides.



NOTIFY

Send an annual notification to all parents, guardians, and staff of all pesticides expected to be applied during the year.



REGISTER

Give parents, guardians, and staff the opportunity to register to be notified 72 hours in advance of individual pesticide applications.

PLAN



Create a plan for IPM and publish it on the school, district, or child care center website. If a website does not exist, include the plan in the annual written notification.



POST

Post warning signs in the area where a pesticide will be applied, at least 24 hours before and 72 hours after the application.



RECORD

Keep records of pesticide applications, and file these records for at least 4 years.



REPORT

Submit annual pesticide use reports to DPR by January 30 for the previous year's applications. Only report pesticide use by school personnel.



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED PEST CONTROL BUSINESSES ?

TRAIN



Complete Healthy Schools Act training during each license renewal period.

REPORT



Submit annual pesticide use reports to DPR by January 30 for the previous year's applications.

When contracting with a licensed pest control business, the schoolsite IPM Coordinator should provide information about the Healthy Schools Act. The IPM Coordinator can also specify in the pest management contract what IPM practices will be used and how pesticide use information will be provided to the schoolsite.

WHAT PESTICIDES CANNOT BE USED AT SCHOOLS ?

The Healthy Schools Act prohibits certain pesticide products from being used at schools and child care centers. Check the Pesticides Prohibited from Use on California Schoolsites list on the School and Child Care IPM website to see the most current version.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION'S ROLE ?

The Department of Pesticide Regulation is the lead state agency providing Healthy Schools Act compliance assistance to schoolsites throughout California. By conducting a variety of outreach and training activities, the Department of Pesticide Regulation's School and Child Care IPM Team helps schoolsites implement IPM practices and shares IPM success stories statewide. The School and Child Care IPM Team is a resource for schoolsite staff, pest management professionals, parents, teachers, and the public who want more information about IPM and the Healthy Schools Act.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLE ?

The Healthy Schools Act requirements for schoolsites are in the California Education Code. The California Department of Education and the Department of Pesticide Regulation work together to interpret the law and provide accurate information to schoolsites throughout California. The California Department of Education also acts as an advisory resource for school districts, charter schools, and other local education agencies.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES'S ROLE ?

The Child Care Licensing Program of the Department of Social Services acts as a liaison between licensed child care facilities and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. With over 40,000 licensed child care facilities in California, the Department of Pesticide Regulation relies on the Child Care Licensing Program to share Healthy Schools Act information through newsletters, conferences, and other networks. The Child Care Licensing Program also includes Healthy Schools Act and IPM information in the training orientation required for new licenses.

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT INFORMATION ?



www.cdpr.ca.gov



school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov