

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Learning Module Fact Sheet
A short introduction to school Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

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Why is school IPM different?

Integrated pest management (IPM) is having a whole system of pest control strategies that emphasize prevention of pest invasion and damage. A School IPM program's primary need is to protect children and staff who spend long periods in the school building. Children will often feel the impact of pesticide toxicity more acutely, or intensely than adults. School buildings also operate on a very different schedule to normal office buildings or home dwellings. Having so many extended out-of-use periods creates a unique invitation for pests. This requires having an IPM plan specifically tailored for the facility operations of a school building. In the State of New Jersey, schools must have an IPM plan that complies with the 'School IPM Act' of 2002 and is consistent with the New Jersey "model policy" for School IPM.

Overview of New Jersey's 'School IPM Act' enacted on December 12, 2002

The NJ DEP developed a "model policy" for school IPM in response to a need to standardize IPM and pest management practices in New Jersey schools. The model policy is part of the 'School IPM Act' which was enacted by the State on December 12, 2002. The School IPM Act requires the superintendent or equivalent entity with executive authority to adopt an IPM policy consistent with the model policy:

- Schools must appoint an IPM Coordinator to oversee the ongoing policy implementation
- The Act legally requires record keeping
 - i.e.: When pesticides are applied, what pesticides were used
- Mandatory compliance with "Right to Know" Laws which includes:
- Annual notification of the ongoing policy to staff, parents, and others
 - Notification of scheduled applications and signage for pesticide use
- There are provisions for the emergency application of low-impact pesticides which can include:
 - Gels, pastes, certain baits
 - Some antimicrobial agents such as a disinfectant used as a cleaning product
 - Boric acid
 - BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)
 - ***Consult regulations for full list**

The model school IPM policy

While you do not have to use the NJ DEP's model policy, the policy you implement must be consistent with the model policy. Choosing to adopt the model policy will likely reduce the input resources needed to begin implementing a strong, organized IPM program. The model policy includes:

- A guide with directions on how to use the model policy plan
- Templates that can be filled out with your school's information
- Reporting logs
- Signage and how to use signage
- Sample thresholds

**List does not include all management tactics used in IPM.*



Where you can find the complete model plan and how to use it

Hyperlinks can be copy & pasted or manually typed into your internet browser.

The complete 'Model School IPM Plan for New Jersey Schools': Directions, Plan, & Appendices (Revised 7/18/04) can be found in PDF format here:

<https://pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/completemodelplan.pdf>

Directions for 'How to Use the Model School IPM Plan for New Jersey Schools' (Revised 7/18/04) can be found in PDF format here:

<https://pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/howtorev1.pdf>

All information regarding the 'School IPM Act' of 2002 and the Model Policy can be found here:

<https://pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/school/plan/>

Other Tools for You to Use

IPM is a robust field of scientific research and application. IPM professionals in the public and private sectors are constantly discovering new pertinent information and developing new control strategies. Additional public IPM resources in New Jersey include:

- New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office:
<https://pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/contact/>
- "Report Cards" self-assessment tool on the School IPM website:
<https://PestManagement.Rutgers.edu/School/>
- Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office School IPM website:
<https://PestManagement.Rutgers.edu/School/>

Certification to administer a School IPM program in New Jersey

School IPM has its own specific certification in New Jersey and certification training is often offered monthly. For more information, please contact:

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References

Green, T. A., and D. H. Gouge. "School IPM 2020: A strategic plan for integrated pest management in schools in the United States." Version 3 (2015): 316.

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