

1999 Legislation Reforming Pest Management Practices in Illinois Schools

Public Act 91-0525 (SB #529) IPM in Schools

This law amends the Structural Pest Control Act administered by the Department of Public Health and covers indoor pest management practices in schools.

1. Schools are required to adopt an integrated pest management program (IPM).

IPM is a safer pest management approach defined and "encouraged" in a 1992 amendment to the Illinois Structural Pest Control Act. However, a 1998 survey of Illinois public schools found that 82% continue to routinely spray pesticides despite this encouragement. Since the voluntary approach had failed to improve the pest management practices in most schools, this mandate is needed to protect children from unnecessary exposure to pesticides.

A school may be exempt from the requirement if it demonstrates to the Department of Public Health that IPM will cost the school more than it is paying for pest control.

Most schools have found that they save money through IPM, but those schools with conditions that made an effective IPM program expensive to implement will receive an exemption.

2. Schools must provide notification to parents, guardians and school employees prior to the application of pesticides inside school buildings. School districts must provide written notices to parents and staff who register to be notified or provide written notification through newsletters, bulletins, calendars or other correspondence currently published by the school district.

Parent and staff notification allows those with a particular sensitivity to pesticides, such as people with asthma, to take steps to protect themselves from exposure.

Effective date: August 1, 2000

Public Act 91-0099 (SB #527) Parents Right-to-Know

This law amends the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

1. Schools are required to provide notification prior to the application of pesticides on school grounds. School districts must provide written notices to parents who register to be notified or provide written notification through newsletters, bulletins, calendars or other correspondence currently published by the school district.

Parent notification allows those with a particular sensitivity to pesticides, such as people with asthma, to take steps to protect themselves from exposure.

Effective date: August 15, 1999

**Full text of these laws can be accessed from the Illinois General Assembly web site:
<http://www.legis.state.il.us>.**

Safer Pest Control Project (SPCP)

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SPCP is a non-profit organization working to reduce pesticide use in Illinois