

Healthy Schools Act –required course components

The Healthy Schools Act (HSA) requires anyone applying a pesticide on a schoolsite must annually complete either a Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) developed training course or a similar course authorized or approved by DPR. As provided by law, DPR and anyone authorized by DPR must provide a course that covers integrated pest management (IPM) and the safe use of pesticides, taking into consideration the unique school setting and children's health.

In order to meet the statutory requirements, the DPR course will cover the subjects listed below and will be at least one hour in duration. It will also have a final exam with at least ten questions, and all course participants will be provided with a certificate of attendance.

Subjects that will be included in the DPR training course are as follows:

- 1) Special considerations for using pesticides around children
 - a) Possible consequences of pesticide exposure to children
 - b) Children's vulnerability to the effects of pesticide use
 - c) Pesticide storage
 - d) Safe pesticide use
- 2) The Healthy Schools Act requirements
 - a) Requirements for licensed Pest Management Professionals
 - b) Requirements for schools and child care centers
 - i) Designee, notification, IPM plan, posting, recordkeeping, reporting
 - c) Requirements for schoolsite employees
 - i) Annual training
- 3) Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - a) Components of an IPM program
 - b) Real-world maintenance practices
 - c) Why you should use IPM at schools and child care centers
 - d) Common schoolsite pest problems
 - i) IPM strategies for specific pests (such as ants, bees/wasps, cockroaches, gophers, mice/rats, spiders, and weeds)

To get your course approved by DPR, please submit all course materials, your presentation, and exam questions by e-mail to school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov or by regular mail to School and Child IPM Program, Pest Management and Licensing, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, 1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015.

Approved courses will qualify for at least one hour of continuing education units (CEU) for DPR and Structural Pest Control Board licensees, but CE sponsors must apply separately to receive these CEUs. For CE approval for DPR license holders, contact the continuing education program at cemail@cdpr.ca.gov or 916-324-4250. For CE approval for Structural Pest Control Board licensees, go to <http://www.pestboard.ca.gov/ce/index.shtml>.