

Physical School Environment

About SHPPS: SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Comprehensive results from SHPPS 2006 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 77, Number 8, October 2007.

- 20.5% of states required districts or schools to have an indoor air quality (IAQ) management program, defined as a set of specific activities for preventing and resolving IAQ problems, and 35.4% of districts and 51.4% of schools had an IAQ management program.

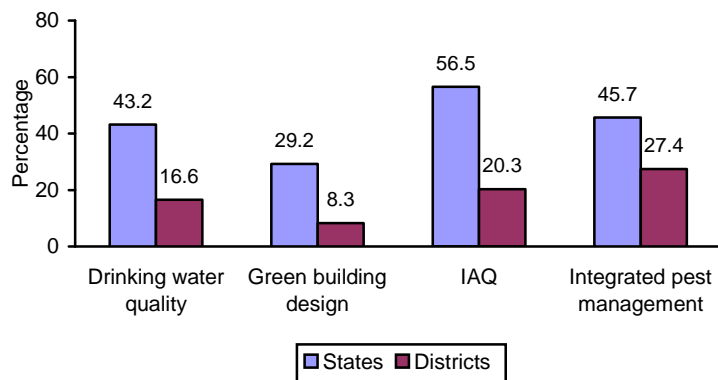
- 37.3% of districts required that schools meet the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) ventilation standards. During the 12 months preceding the study, 50.3% of schools almost always or always maintained ASHRAE ventilation standards.

- 16.5% of districts required schools to keep relative indoor humidity below 60%. During the 12 months preceding the study, 55.3% of schools almost always or always kept the relative indoor humidity below 60%.

- 47.4% of districts had a policy on how schools should address mold problems, and 67.0% of schools had a plan for how to address mold problems.

- 47.0% of districts required schools to respond to moisture-related issues, such as floods, leaks, or condensation, within 48 hours or less, and 72.0% of schools responded to moisture-related issues within 48 hours or less during the 12 months preceding the study, although 20.3% of schools had no moisture-related issues during this time.

Percentage of States and Districts That Provided Funding for Staff Development or Offered Staff Development on How to Implement Policies and Programs During the 2 Years Preceding the Study



Percentage of States and Districts That Required Periodic School Inspections and Percentage of Schools That Conducted Periodic School Inspections

Inspection	States	Districts	Schools
Of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system	57.4	75.4	96.0
For mold	41.3	68.5	81.2
For condensation in and around the school facilities	32.7*	58.2	78.5
Of the building foundation, walls, and roof for cracks or leaks	44.9 [†]	69.3	93.3
Of the plumbing system	45.7	67.7	86.3
For pests	48.9	81.7	94.2
That test drinking water outlets for lead	55.6	56.0	55.7

*Respondents from 13.7% of states were unsure of state requirements on this issue.

[†]Respondents from 9.8% of states were unsure of state requirements on this issue.

- 35.3% of districts had implemented an engine-idling reduction program for school buses, although 8.1% of districts had no school buses. Among districts with an engine-idling reduction program, 88.7% provided bus drivers with training related to the program during the 2 years preceding the study.
- 25.6% of districts and 56.5% of schools had a policy to purchase low-emitting products (i.e., those designed to give off low levels of fumes or vapors) for use in and around the school and school grounds, including in art classes, industrial art classes, and science laboratories.
- 93.9% of schools had someone at the school to oversee custodial, maintenance, and environmental issues, such as hazardous materials and pest management. Among those schools, 64.4% required a newly hired person in the oversight position to have formal training on issues related to the physical environment of buildings and health hazards likely to be encountered in schools.
- 24.5% of states required and 30.6% recommended that districts or schools follow an integrated pest management program, an approach to pest control that seeks to reduce the use of toxic pesticides by relying on non-toxic methods of pest control such as physical exclusion and by limiting pesticide use, when essential, to the least toxic substances.
- 27.7% of districts required and 41.4% recommended that schools use spot treatments rather than widespread applications of pesticides.

Percentage of Schools That Almost Always or Always Implemented Selected Integrated Pest Management Strategies*	
Strategy	Schools
Surfaces contaminated by food cleaned promptly	97.7
Food preparation equipment cleaned promptly	97.5
Food stored in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it was inaccessible to pests	82.6
Waste stored in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it was inaccessible to pests	73.8
Desks cleaned to remove any food remains	70.2
Staff and students informed prior to the application of pesticide [†]	65.4
Eating allowed only in designated areas to control pests	59.5
Spot treatments and baiting used rather than widespread applications of pesticides [§]	57.9
Trash containers cleaned with a disinfectant	57.6
Indoor and outdoor areas that had been treated with pesticides clearly marked [¶]	56.2
Openings in walls, floors, doors, and windows sealed with caulk or weather stripping ^{**}	49.8
Lockers cleaned to remove any food remains ^{††§§}	39.8
<p>* During the 12 months preceding the study. [†] Among the 77.5% of schools for which the question was applicable to their pest management strategies. [§] Among the 85.7% of schools for which the question was applicable to their pest management strategies. [¶] Among the 76.3% of schools for which the question was applicable to their pest management strategies. ^{**} Among the 84.0% of schools that had openings in walls, floors, doors, or windows. ^{††} Only asked among middle schools and high schools. ^{§§} Among the 88.2% of schools with lockers.</p>	

- 13.4% of districts had a policy to include green design when building new schools or renovating existing buildings. Green buildings are defined as those that are healthy and productive, cost-effective to operate and maintain, and sustainable (e.g., integrate energy conservation and renewable energy strategies, high-performance mechanical and lighting systems, and environmentally responsive site planning).

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/shpps or call 800-CDC INFO (800-232-4636).

