

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

About the Awards Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Awards Program was initiated to recognize schools and school districts that have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving children's health by promoting good integrated pest management practices. For those schools and districts just beginning to implement IPM management plans to those who have mature, sustainable, district-wide programs, EPA provides a series of national-level awards. As the stature of the awards increases, so does the value gained by each recipient through improved environmental health for students, staff, and the community.

What Awards Does EPA Offer?

Award applications accepted and presented throughout the year:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) **School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) National Great Start Award** is presented to school districts that are in the initial stages of implementing an effective IPM management program. Qualifying schools are those that have selected an IPM Coordinator and created a written IPM Policy.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) **School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) National Leadership Award** is presented to schools and/or school districts with a senior-level commitment to establish and maintain a sustainable IPM program as well as to relate your school IPM strategies to the framework for effective school IPM programs (i.e., Organize, Assess, Plan, Act, Evaluate, and Communicate)

Award applications accepted during set periods and presented at a National Forum.

- To merit an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools National Excellence Award**, applicants need to tell the story of their IPM management program in a way that demonstrates the program is comprehensive, effective, and moving towards being institutionalized as part of a comprehensive environmental health program in the district. Specifically, EPA will look for evidence that:
 - The critical components that lead to program effectiveness (i.e., the Six Key Drivers of School IPM Program Success) are embodied in the school environmental health management program;
 - An established system exists to ensure consistent and sustained action to identify, address and prevent pest problems; and
 - Evidence that the program is achieving results.

- The **School IPM National Model of Sustained Excellence Award** is presented to U.S. school districts that show ongoing exceptional commitment and achievement in maintaining healthy educational facilities while institutionalizing comprehensive IPM management practices. Recipients of this award must have been a past National Excellence Award recipient and are selected through a highly competitive process. Applicants must demonstrate:
 - Continued senior management support for making comprehensive IPM management a part of the day-to-day operations of the school system.
 - Effective, comprehensive school IPM program that is consistent with the Six Key Drivers of School IPM Program Success.
 - A mature IPM program that demonstrates growth and improvement over time.
 - Results (qualitative and quantitative) demonstrating the school IPM program impact on the environment, student and staff health, performance, and productivity.
 - Evidence of mentoring other school systems to help them develop or sustain effective school IPM programs.
- The **National School IPM Connector Award** is designed to give national recognition to individuals and organizations whose actions and initiatives support improved school environmental health in their community, region, state, or even nationally, with a special focus on actions and initiatives that reflect the spirit of collaboration and mentorship to assist schools and school districts with establishing comprehensive school IPM programs. Examples include the following:
 - Development of innovative initiatives, approaches, tools, or resources that have contributed to improved school integrated pest management and indoor environments;
 - Outstanding individuals and groups who have played a coordinating function to bring people or IPM programs together to provide mutual assistance and support in school IPM management program implementation;
 - Leadership/mentorship of school or school system IPM programs;
 - Technical assistance in IPM program implementation;
 - Increasing student involvement in IPM, such as integration of science clubs; and
 - Other actions and initiatives that foster interconnectedness and mutual support and demonstrate results as part of these efforts.