

**Mission Statement:** The Southern Region School IPM Working Group is dedicated to promoting the use and adoption of School Integrated Pest Management by:

- Setting goals and priorities that minimize and balance risks of pests and pest management strategies
- Collaborating and sharing resources with colleagues
- Identifying and pursuing resources together
- Producing and presenting new resources that are economically acceptable and practical

**Priorities:** Each participant was allowed the opportunity to contribute at least one priority item for each category of Research, Extension/Teaching and Regulatory. The question posed was: "In order to move my state's school IPM program forward, we should do..." Participants were asked to finish the phrase. After the brainstorming session, the draft PMSP priorities were added to the list and Working Group members were asked to rank the priorities. Each member was allowed 5 votes. Scores were tallied. The higher the number, the higher the priority.

Under the Research category, priorities with scores

- >11 were placed in the "high priority" category
- 6-8 were placed in the "medium priority" category;
- <6 were placed in the "low priority" category.

None of the items listed on the list of priorities were found to be objectionable by any members of the working group.

#### Research

Need efficacy data, with emphasis on low toxic approaches	14
Need study on total cost of IPM over the short term, mid term, and long term of in-house versus outsourced PM service	12
Need research that investigates relationships among medical problems, pests and pesticide exposure	11
Link better school attendance or performance with school IPM implementation	8
Gather baseline data on pests, practices, etc.	7
Impacts on building design on pest management	7
Best management practices for pesticide use by school neighbors	7
Crossover benefits of school IPM (e.g., energy dollars)	6
Find out administrative systems or structures of different school systems	1
Establish a database or research protocol on design—how building healthy schools and building out pests	1
Weed and turf management	1
Awareness of attitudes of school IPM among groups	0
Stinging insect management	0
Get members of chemically sensitive people as well as people allergic to fire ants	
Know how palatable the cockroach bait is over time	
Comparative effectiveness of different groups of people	
Third party assessment of PMP performance	
Data on satisfaction with IPM	
Bedbugs and attractants	

### Extension

One full-time paid staff per state devoted to IPM in schools	9
Have information for PCOs packaged differently from that for parents and schools and administrators	9
Professional marketing—need to get word out to general public	9
Regional publication system designed like the fire ants system	7
Poster or laminated handouts for people in schools identifying pests. Need photos of all life stages and evidence. Needs to be hand-held, as in flip card. ID Guide	7
See some mechanism for limited license holders—custodians that have IPM duties, where they could train. Peer to peer education with nontraditional pest managers	5
Collaborating as a group on peer review journal articles on what we know so the data is out there	5
Web site or clearinghouse where ALL of the pesticides used in schools can be viewed and has relative toxicity—have all in one place	4
Educate policy makers, e.g., city councils and legislatures.	3
Regional demonstrations and work groups to broaden results	2
More people	2
Basic set of IPM information related to schools that can be used by county offices (one page thing on specific topic). Fact sheet that explains school IPM and its various aspects	2
Appealing to college students for general dissemination	2
Web-based training	2
Provide high quality print and electronic resources for those who need to do training	1
Parent involvement—how to get the parents involved or how to inform them about IPM.	1
Broaching the topic for county extension so they know where to find the resources (4-H, FCS and county ag)	0
Educate about pest and pesticide hazards	0
Use the local extension offices to train local school district personnel on school IPM, so they can get a certificate	
Make each local extension office a contact or county liaison for IPM programs since they know the people in that county	
Have program that coordinates with people getting education degrees where they can have the information in a class Courses for undergraduate and graduate students	
Database of experts in region divided by expertise	
Provide training for district coordinators or school based	
Develop and utilize art and theater to engage kids in learning about urban pests and IPM, e.g., Roach Patrol.	
K-12 education curriculum on IPM	
Educational materials for low-literacy population	

### Regulatory

Special certification for school IPM for ALL pesticide applicators who apply at the school	16
Coordinated effort and increased cooperation between department of health and department of education and pesticide lead agency and appropriate lead agencies	
Willingness to enforce the rules and regulations that are already on the books	
Assistance from our regulatory agency for compliance—proactive rather than reactive approach from compliance agency	
Only licensed pesticide applicators need to be applying pesticides	
Legislation must be written correctly, so we don't have IPM and pesticide application in the same sentence	

## **Management**

Implement assessment programs to identify implementation status and prioritize needed improvements in individual school systems, e.g., IPM STAR.

Establish highly visible demonstrations throughout the US.

Develop a national school IPM coalition of stakeholder organizations to coordinate implementation of proven approaches nationwide.

Partner with private pest management organizations, e.g., pest management professionals to create and implement effective and economical IPM service relationships.

Create incentives for implementation, e.g., reduce liability costs, recognition and publicity.

Create structural and landscape maintenance IPM contract specifications for use by school purchasing agents.

Increase funding for management, coordination, education, research and implementation.

Activate environmental health and safety professionals by creating awareness of the need, potential and effective methodology for success.

Establish appropriately trained IPM Coordinators in school systems.

Establish efficient communication networks among stakeholders.

Provide funding for school assessments including active participation by local actors including Extension.

### **The following were also suggested but did not receive votes during ranking.**

Establish best design and construction practices for school facilities to prevent pest problems.

Create peer mentorship's among key role players including service providers, administrators, maintenance and food service staff, parents and others.

Create job-specific IPM guidelines for roles within schools, e.g., athletic field managers, custodians, maintenance staff, principals, etc.

Establish IPM policies in school systems.

Develop and disseminate a protocol for grassroots implementation.

Fully integrate IPM elements into EPA's Indoor Air Quality 'Tools for Schools.'