

Physical School Environment

About SHPPS: SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. SHPPS was conducted in 1994, 2000, and 2006. The 2012 study collected data at the state and district levels only. School- and classroom-level data collection will take place in 2014.

Percentage of States Providing Assistance to Districts or Schools on Physical School Environment Topics			
Topic	States		
	Developed, revised, or assisted in developing model policies, policy guidance, or other materials*	Distributed or provided model policies, policy guidance, or other materials*	Provided technical assistance†
Drinking water quality	26.5	29.2	34.7
Green building design or construction	35.4	34.0	38.3
Green cleaning products and practices	31.3	32.6	36.2
Indoor air quality	42.9	45.8	51.0
Integrated pest management	29.8	28.6	26.5
Joint use agreements	47.9	44.9	54.0
Radon testing and mitigation	22.9	21.3	26.1
School building renovation	46.8	43.5	48.9
Site selection for new school buildings	41.7	34.0	42.6

*During the 2 years before the study.
†During the 12 months before the study.

Percentage of States and Districts That Provided Funding for Professional Development or Offered Professional Development on How to Implement School-wide Policies and Programs During the 2 Years Before the Study		
Topic	States	Districts
Drinking water quality	21.7	20.0
Green cleaning products and practices	31.9	44.1
Indoor air quality	28.9	27.7
Integrated pest management	19.1	41.4
Radon testing and mitigation	23.4	22.9

- During the 2 years before the study, some states provided funding for professional development or offered professional development on the following topics that go beyond specific school health content and are relevant to a broad audience: joint use agreements (38.3% of states), green building design or construction (28.3%), school building renovation (27.7%), and site selection for new school buildings (25.5%).

Percentage of Districts That Required Schools to Conduct Periodic Inspections	
Type of inspection	Districts
Building foundation, walls, and roof for cracks, leaks, or past water damage	72.2
Drinking water outlets for lead	55.5
For clutter that prevents effective cleaning and maintenance	70.9
For condensation in and around school facilities	57.1
For mold	71.7
Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system	78.4
Plumbing system	69.7
Radon	37.0

Percentage of Districts That Required Schools to Implement Integrated Pest Management Strategies	
Strategy	Districts
Allow eating only in designated areas to control pests	57.1
Keep vegetation, shrubs, and wood mulch at least one foot away from buildings to control pests	54.1
Mark indoor and outdoor areas that have been treated with pesticides	55.0
Remove infested or diseased plants	78.3
Repair cracks in pavement and sidewalks	73.3
Seal openings in walls, floors, doors, and windows with caulk or weather stripping	82.1
Store food in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it is inaccessible to pests	81.3
Store food waste in plastic, glass, or metal containers with tight lids so that it is inaccessible to pests	74.5
Use spot treatments and baiting rather than widespread applications of pesticides	80.9

- 30.0% of districts had adopted a policy to include green building design when building new school buildings or renovating existing buildings.

Percentage of Districts That Had Adopted Green Building Design-Related Policies or Practices For New School Campuses or Renovations	
Practice	Districts
Conservation of water, such as using rainwater or plumbing fixtures that conserve water	31.1
Creating a system for managing arrivals and departures of pedestrians and bicycles	35.0
Implementation of recycling programs	59.3
Orienting buildings to optimize energy conservation, use of day light, and noise reduction	32.3
Preservation of green space or protections of the existing landscape	32.3
Use of alternative transportation including public transportation, walking, or biking	17.4
Use of building materials (e.g., floor and wall coverings, paints, sealants, caulk, adhesives, or furniture) that are low- or no-volatile organic compound emitting materials	39.3
Use of energy efficient lighting and electrical systems	63.6
Use of landscaping that includes only native planting materials	28.9
Use of natural light for visual comfort or energy conservation	38.2
Use of procedures or systems to protect indoor air quality	50.1
Use of radon resistant new construction practices	33.4
Use of renewable energy, such as solar or wind power	17.6

- 61.6% of districts had a formal agreement for shared use of school or community property. These agreements applied to the use of facilities for outdoor recreation or physical activity (84.3% of districts with agreements), indoor recreation or physical activity (82.1%), before- or after-school programs for school-aged children (67.0%), adult education programs (49.3%), preschool or infant child care programs (41.1%), library services (23.9%), and healthcare services (21.0%).

Among the 92.8% of districts that had at least 1 school with a main instructional building constructed before 1980:

- 39.7% had adopted a policy requiring that schools constructed before 1980 inspect for lead in cracked or peeling paint and 30.7% reported that lead paint had been previously identified and remediated.
- 25.5% had adopted a policy requiring that schools constructed before 1980 inspect for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in caulking around windows and doors and 29.8% reported that PCBs in caulking had been previously identified and remediated.
- 24.8% had adopted a policy requiring inspection for PCBs in fluorescent light ballasts and 41.0% reported that PCBs in fluorescent light ballasts had been previously identified and remediated.

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

