

Building on Success: Expanding Efforts to Implement Integrated Pest Management in Michigan and Indiana Schools

Funding Awarded: \$158,518

Michigan State University will build upon existing efforts in Indiana and Michigan to promote safer pest management practices in schools through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The project will study how this approach to pest control is smart, sensible, and sustainable for schools from a business and environmental health perspective. The connections between energy savings, reducing or eliminating mold, reducing asthma cases and improving school attendance will be demonstrated.

With a focus on underserved communities in this grant, many children from low socioeconomic households will be exposed to fewer pesticides and fewer pests, thereby reducing health problems associated with pest allergens. This project will impact the application of IPM in 5% of Michigan and Indiana school districts reaching about 128,000 children through education, information sharing, networking and technical support.

EPA recommends the use of IPM in schools as the standard for pest control and promotes its adoption through outreach, demonstration, technical support, and grants. Through this project, EPA is meeting the need for: sound demonstration that IPM is effective, technical assistance to help schools establish and implement an IPM program, and outreach to surrounding schools to promote widespread adoption.

Objectives

- Build a bi-state school IPM Coalition for Michigan and Indiana to increase IPM adoption.
- Develop web-based trainings targeted for specific groups involved in establishing and implementing IPM in schools.
- Focus on underserved communities with demonstration schools from large urban districts.
- Link all school IPM program materials developed to other Healthy School Programs.

Programs and Activities

Outreach: The bi-state coalition for Michigan and Indiana will be supported by a school IPM website and quarterly newsletters.

Knowledge Transfer: A demonstration school will be set up in one urban school district in each state. In addition to a fully implemented pilot school in each district, district-wide training opportunities will be provided to help spread the program to other schools in the districts.

Training: Web-based trainings and targeted webinars will be developed for specific groups involved in school IPM implementation, including custodians and maintenance workers, PTA/PTO, school board members, superintendents, facility managers and school IPM coordinators.

Desired Outcomes

- Viable and self-sustaining peer-to-peer support network for school IPM in Michigan and Indiana
- Effective transfer of IPM knowledge to school IPM implementors
- Increased number of schools adopting IPM
- School districts in underserved communities have a model for IPM implementation
- Promotion of an overall healthy school concept to schools

Establishing a bi-state coalition to increase IPM adoption in Michigan and Indiana schools

