


## Keeping the Pests Out: The Economics of Integrated Pest Management in Schools

Funding Awarded: \$300,000



Health Resources in Action (HRiA) will conduct an economic assessment of the implementation of school Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Currently, the materials available on the economics of school IPM are anecdotal. The lack of scientifically robust economic information creates uncertainty within school districts about the costs and benefits associated with establishing and sustaining IPM programs. This project will remove this uncertainty by providing an unbiased assessment, supported by robust data, on the economics of IPM programs in diverse school settings.

EPA recommends the use of IPM in schools as the standard for pest control and promotes its adoption through outreach, research, public education, training, demonstrations, and grants. Through this project, EPA is meeting the need for research and public education to promote widespread adoption.

### Objectives

- Conduct a comprehensive economic assessment of three diverse school districts newly implementing school IPM
- Develop and disseminate the economic evaluation results and marketing materials nationwide in collaboration with EPA
- Submit a manuscript of the research for publication

### Programs and Activities

*Research:* HRiA will partner with Regional Asthma Management Program, Healthy Schools Network, and Ecologic Entomology, LLC to provide a systematic and objective framework for understanding the economic impacts of IPM implementation in school districts diverse in size, setting, and location. HRiA will collect economic, environmental, human health, and community data points as the school districts move from conventional pest control to IPM in order to develop a comprehensive economic assessment.

*Outreach and Knowledge Transfer:* Findings and a final report will be disseminated through webinars, marketing materials, and the development of a draft manuscript for publication in a relevant journal. Three distinct outreach and marketing materials/tools will be developed suitable for a range of potential audiences.

### Desired Outcome

- Documentation of the economics associated with IPM adoption as compared with traditional pest control methods will inform and encourage the adoption of IPM in schools nationwide.

*Unbiased economics of School IPM so schools can make informed decisions.*