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# Environmental Education in Wisconsin Public Schools: A Survey of Directors of Curriculum/Instruction\*

*\*Director of Curriculum/Instruction is defined as the individual in charge of coordinating the overall curriculum for his/her district.*

## Section I

The purpose of this section is to obtain general information about your experience and your feelings towards environmental education. Please indicate your answer by circling the appropriate response.

1. Please indicate your primary job responsibilities.
  1. full time director of curriculum/instruction
  2. director of curriculum/instruction and district administrator for my district
  3. director of curriculum/instruction and principal for my district
  4. director of curriculum/instruction and teacher in my school
  5. other (please write your job title): \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many years have you been a part and/or full time director of curriculum/instruction? (include previous job experiences)
  1. less than 3 years
  2. 3-6 years
  3. 7-10 years
  4. over 10 years
3. Please indicate which population you supervise or work with the most.
  1. elementary principals and teachers (K-8)
  2. middle school/jr. high principals and teachers (6-9)
  3. secondary principals and teachers (9-12)
  4. principals and teachers from all grade levels
  5. other administrative staff
4. Please estimate the number of environmental education courses, workshops or in-services you have taken.
  1. none
  2. 1-2
  3. 3-4
  4. 5-6
  5. more than 6



## Section II

The purpose of this section is to obtain some general information about environmental education in your school district. Please indicate your answer by circling the number of the appropriate response.

15. How many students are in your district?

1. under 1500
2. 1501-5,000
3. over 5,000

16. Does your district have a written curriculum plan for environmental education?

1. Yes (go to question 17)
2. Not sure (go to question 18)
3. No (go to question 18)

17. How satisfied are you that your school district's environmental education curriculum plan is being implemented effectively?

1. Very satisfied
2. Satisfied
3. Not sure
4. Dissatisfied
5. Very dissatisfied

18. In your **best estimate**, how much financial support (excluding personnel costs) does your district provide specifically for environmental education?

1. Not funded
2. \$ 1 - \$250
3. \$ 251 - \$500
4. \$ 501 - \$1000
5. \$1001 - \$5000
6. \$5000 - \$10,000
7. over \$10,000

19. Does your district have one or more persons designated as the environmental education specialist(s), coordinator(s) or chairperson(s)?

1. Yes (go to question 20)
2. Not sure (go to question 22)
3. No (go to question 22)

20. Please check the box(es) which most accurately describes the position(s):

- |  | position #1              | position #2              | position #3              |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. full time, paid position                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. part time, paid position                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. voluntary position with release time    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. voluntary position with no release time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

21. Does your district have **more** than three personnel positions dedicated to environmental education?

1. Yes
2. Unsure
3. No



22. Does your district have an active environmental education committee?
1. Yes (go to question 23 )
  2. Not sure (go to question 25 )
  3. No (go to question 25 )
23. Does your district provide **financial support** for the environmental education committee to meet?
1. Yes
  2. Unsure
  3. No
24. Does your district provide '**release time**' for the environmental education committee to meet?
1. Yes
  2. Unsure
  3. No
25. How many environmental education courses/in-services has your school district offered for teachers in the past three years?
1. 0
  2. 1-2
  3. 3-4
  4. 5-6
  5. 7 or more
26. Does your school district provide **financial support** for teachers who wish to attend environmental education workshops or conferences not sponsored by your district?
1. Yes
  2. Unsure
  3. No
27. Does your school district provide **indirect** funds by way of pay scale increments or other benefits to teachers who wish to attend environmental education workshops or conferences not sponsored by your district?
1. Yes
  2. Unsure
  3. No
28. In your **best estimate**, approximately how much time **per week** does the average teacher in your district spend teaching about the environment?
1. Less than 30 minutes
  2. 31 minutes to 60 minutes (1 hour)
  3. 61 minutes to 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours)
  4. 91 minutes to 120 minutes (2 hours)
  5. 121 minutes to 150 minutes (2 1/2 hours)
  6. 151 minutes to 180 minutes (3 hours)
  7. 181 minutes to 210 minutes (3 1/2 hours)
  8. 211 minutes to 240 minutes (4 hours)
  9. Over 240 minutes (more than 4 hours)
  10. Don't know

### Section III

The purpose of this section is to obtain information about your general support for environmental education. For the next nine statements, please indicate your response to the following actions by circling the corresponding number in the adjacent column where:

1= To no extent	2= To a small extent	3= To a moderate extent	4= To a considerable extent	5= To a great extent	NA= Not applicable to my job
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- |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 29. | I distribute environmental education information to principals and/or teachers in my district.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 30. | I encourage the utilization of community resource people to benefit environmental education programs or projects in my district.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 31. | When requested, I arrange equitable planning time (relative to other subjects) for teachers developing environmental education programs.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 32. | I give encouragement to a teacher (or teachers) in my district for their efforts to teach about the environment.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 33. | I arrange or request other administrators to arrange staff training and/or in-services in environmental education.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 34. | I support/authorize teacher requests to attend environmental education workshops, conferences and professional development opportunities outside of district sponsored in-services. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 35. | I write or assist with writing grants to fund or support environmental education projects or programs.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 36. | I make an effort to emphasize or allow others to emphasize environmental education projects and/or programs at staff meetings.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 37. | I arrange or make requests for resources and materials needed for environmental education programs and projects.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |



## Section IV

The purpose of this section is to identify potential barriers to including or increasing environmental education in your school district. Described below are three categories of barriers: personal, school-related, and district-related barriers. For each category, indicate which barriers (if any) are relevant to your situation.

38. Of the following barriers, which (if any) do you feel are **MOST** applicable to your **personal situation**. Rank up to three statements but no more than three where:

1 = most applicable      2 = second most applicable      3 = third most applicable

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. I do not have the knowledge or background to feel comfortable promoting environmental education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. I do not have the time to promote environmental education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. I do not have the personal interest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. I do not have any personal barriers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. Other (please explain)

39. Of the following **school-related barriers**, which (if any) do you feel are **MOST** applicable to the situation in your district. Rank up to three statements but no more than three where:

1 = most applicable      2 = second most applicable      3 = third most applicable

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. The teachers in my school district do not have the knowledge or background to teach about the environment effectively.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. There is not enough class time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Teachers do not have enough planning time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. There is not enough funding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. There are not enough material resources for environmental education available in my district.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. Teachers feel environmental concepts are unrelated to their subject area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. The school settings in my district are not conducive to teaching about the environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ h. Teachers feel education about the environment is not appropriate for the grade level they teach.
- \_\_\_\_\_ i. Teachers are not interested in teaching about the environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ j. Teachers feel there are things other than environmental education that are more important to infuse into the classroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ k. The staff development program does not currently provide opportunities for teachers to become more proficient in environmental education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ l. There are no school-related barriers in my district.
- \_\_\_\_\_ m. Other (please explain)

40. Of the following **district-related** barriers, which (if any) do you feel are **MOST** applicable to the situation in your district? Rank up to three statements but no more than three where:

1 = most applicable      2 = second most applicable      3 = third most applicable

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. There are not enough funds available in my district to support a quality environmental education program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. The school board is not supportive of environmental education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. The District Administrator of my school district is not supportive of environmental education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. The principals in my school district are not supportive of environmental education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. There is not enough public support for environmental education in my district.
- \_\_\_\_\_ f. There are no district-related barriers in my school district.
- \_\_\_\_\_ g. Other (please explain)

41. Please indicate the top three statements which **BEST** represent the situation that would most influence you to include or increase environmental education in your school district. Put a "1" in the box corresponding to the most influential situation, a "2" in the box corresponding to the second most influential situation, etc.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a. More support from my administration.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b. More support from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c. More in-service workshops on environmental education specifically for administrators. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d. More in-service workshops on environmental education for teachers.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Better access to resources for teaching about the environment.                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | f. More time.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | g. More funding.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | h. More public support for environmental education.                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i. More teacher interest in environmental education.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | j. Other (please explain)  |

Please use the bottom and back of this survey to add any additional comments. When you are finished, please fold the survey in thirds and return it in the pre-addressed, business reply envelope.

**Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey !!**