
Environmental Education in Wisconsin Public Schools: A Survey of Principals

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 principal
 2. principal and district administrator for my district
 3. principal and director of curriculum/instruction for my district
 4. principal and teacher in my school

2. How many years have you been a part or full time school principal?
(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 teachers (K-8)
 2. middle school/jr. high teachers (6-9)
 3. secondary teachers (9-12)
 4. teachers from all grade levels

4. Please estimate the number of environmental education courses, workshops or in-services you have attended.
 1. none
 2. 1-2
 3. 3-4
 4. 5-6
 5. more than 6

For questions #5 through #14, use the following key to indicate your opinion. Please indicate your response by circling the corresponding number in the adjacent column.

1 = Strongly
Disagree

2 = Disagree

3 = Undecided

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly
Agree

	SD	D	UD	A	SA
5. Schools should build student awareness and sensitivity to the total (human and natural) environment and its associated problems.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Schools should provide opportunities for students to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of the environment and our human relationship to the environment.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Schools should provide opportunities for students to develop attitudes and feelings of concern for the environment.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Schools should provide opportunities for students to acquire the motivation and commitment to participate in the maintenance and improvement of environmental quality.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Schools should provide opportunities for students to develop skills needed to identify, investigate, and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Schools should provide students with opportunities to gain actual experience in resolving environmental issues.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Environmental education (EE) should be considered a priority in our K-12 educational system.	1	2	3	4	5
12. It is important that school districts be required to develop and implement an environmental education curriculum plan.	1	2	3	4	5

For the next response, please use the following definition of infusion:

Infusion of education about the environment refers to the placing of environmental concepts and skills into an existing subject or course in a manner as to focus on those concepts and/or skills without jeopardizing the integrity of the original course. The aim is to "environmentalize" the existing course while still meeting its established objectives.

13. Education about the environment should be infused into the existing curricula in my school.	1	2	3	4	5
14. Education about the environment should be taught as a separate subject in my school.	1	2	3	4	5

Section II

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

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 school and your school district provide specifically for environmental education? Circle the number **for each category** which corresponds with the amount of money budgeted in your school and the amount of money budgeted in your district.

School Budget for Environmental Education

1. Not funded
2. \$ 1 - \$250
3. \$ 251 - \$500
4. \$ 501 - \$1000
5. \$1001 - \$1500
6. \$1501 - \$2000
7. over \$2000

District Budget for Environmental Education

1. Not funded
2. \$ 1 - \$250
3. \$ 251 - \$500
4. \$ 501 - \$1000
5. \$1001 - \$5000
6. \$5001 - \$10,000
7. over \$10,000

19. Does your **school** have a person designated as the environmental education specialist, coordinator or chairperson?

1. Yes (go to question #20)
2. Not sure (go to question #21)
3. No (go to question #21)

20. Please circle the response which most accurately describes the position:

1. full time, paid position
2. part time, paid position
3. voluntary position with release time
4. voluntary position with no release time

21. Does your **school** have an active environmental education committee?
 1. Yes (go to question #22) 2. Not sure (go to question #24) 3. No (go to question #24)
22. Does your school provide '**release time**' for the environmental education committee to meet?
 1. Yes 2. Unsure 3. No
23. Does your school provide **financial support** for the environmental education committee to meet?
 1. Yes 2. Unsure 3. No
24. Does your **district** have one or more person(s) designated as the environmental education specialist(s), coordinator(s) or chairperson(s)?
 1. Yes 2. Unsure 3. No
25. How many environmental education courses/in-services has your school or 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 and/or your school district provide **financial support** for teachers who wish to attend environmental education workshops or conferences not sponsored by your school or district?
 1. Yes 2. Unsure 3. No
27. Does your school and/or school district provide **indirect funds** by way of payscale increments or other benefits to teachers who wish to attend environmental education workshops or conferences not sponsored by your school or district?
 1. Yes 2. Unsure 3. No
28. In your **best estimate**, approximately how much time **per week** does the average teacher in your school 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 a teacher (or teachers) in my school. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 30. | I encourage the utilization of community resource people to benefit environmental education programs or projects in my school. | 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 school for their efforts to teach about the environment. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 33. | I arrange or make requests for 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 or 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 school. 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 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 school.
- f. Teachers feel environmental concepts are unrelated to their subject area.
- g. The school setting is 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 do not have the interest 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 school.
- 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 Director of Curriculum/Instruction for my district is 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 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. 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 time to complete this survey !!