

**SIGN UP TODAY: Free Program Available to Schools to Teach Emergency Preparedness to 5<sup>th</sup> Graders**

November 2015

Dear District Administrator:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs (DMA), we are pleased to inform you about the continuation of a program developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to teach 5<sup>th</sup> graders about basic emergency preparedness measures and how they can keep themselves safe.

**Student Tools for Emergency Planning (or STEP)** is a simple and effective preparedness education project that gives our students the confidence and potentially life-saving tools they need to know what to do in an emergency situation. Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time to anyone, and that's why we think it's important to prepare our children.

Last school year, **over 8,000 students across Wisconsin** participated in this free program. The feedback on STEP is overwhelmingly positive. This year, we are proud to continue the program for a fifth year, thanks to a \$15,000 Innovation & Investment Award from AT&T.

**Interested schools can sign up for the program until December 1 at <http://ready.wi.gov/STEP>.**

The STEP curriculum was developed by teachers and requires only one hour of classroom time to complete. The curriculum can be taught by classroom teachers and/or local emergency responders. Materials are provided at no cost to our schools. All participating students also receive an emergency kit to take home.

**DPI, in partnership with DMA, encourages you to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to bring the spirit of preparedness to your schools.** If you have any questions about the STEP program, please contact Tod Pritchard at Wisconsin Emergency Management at (608) 242-3324 or [tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,



Tony Evers, PhD  
State Superintendent

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