

November 16, 2020

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 of the continuation of a program developed by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) to teach 4th and 5th graders about emergency preparedness.

The Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program offers a simple and highly effective classroom curriculum for teaching students the skills they need to react during an emergency. STEP helps students realize a disaster could strike at any time, while helping them build confidence and learn potentially life-saving skills.

Since STEP began in 2010, nearly 75,000 students across Wisconsin have participated in this free program, which has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from participating schools.

Schools can register for STEP until December 18 at <https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/step/>

The STEP curriculum was developed by teachers with 5th grade students in mind. Participation requires only a minimum of one hour of classroom time, while several supplemental lessons are also available. The curriculum can be taught by classroom teachers and local emergency responders. Participating schools also receive free materials to help students build their own emergency kits to take home.

DPI, in partnership with DMA, encourages you to take advantage of this opportunity to bring the spirit of preparedness to your schools. If you have any questions about the STEP program, please contact Andrew Beckett at Wisconsin Emergency Management at (608) 242-3211 or andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Stanford Taylor
State Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction



Paul E. Knapp
Maj Gen, Wisconsin National Guard
The Adjutant General