



November 12, 2021

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 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. Developed by teachers, STEP helps students build confidence in their ability to respond to a disaster and learn potentially life-saving skills. Participating schools also receive free materials to help students build their own emergency kits to take home.

Since STEP began in 2010, nearly 80,000 students across Wisconsin have participated in this free program.

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

Participation in STEP requires only a minimum of one hour of classroom time, with several supplemental lessons also available. The curriculum can be taught by classroom teachers, although many teachers invite local emergency responders to talk to students.

DPI, in partnership with DMA, encourages you to take advantage of this opportunity to help students learn about the importance of preparedness. 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](mailto:andrew.beckett@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

Jill Underly  
State Superintendent  
Department of Public Instruction

Paul E. Knapp  
Maj Gen, WI Department of Military Affairs  
The Adjutant General