

September 2013

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 5th 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.

In the 2012-2013 school year, about 8,000 students in 300 schools across Wisconsin participated in the program. The feedback on STEP is overwhelmingly positive.

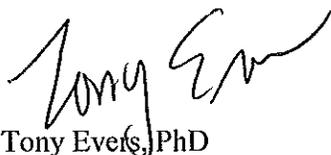
This year, we are proud to continue STEP for a third year and expand the program to reach 10,000 students – thanks to a \$15,000 Innovation & Investment Award from AT&T. This is the second year AT&T is supporting the program with a \$15,000 award.

Interested schools can sign up for the program until November 30 at www.ReadyWisconsin.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, which includes a flashlight, first aid kit and emergency blanket.

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, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Wisconsin Emergency Management, at (608) 242-3324 or tod.pritchard@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Tony Evers, PhD
State Superintendent



Donald P. Dunbar
Major General
Wisconsin National Guard
The Adjutant General