

Fact Sheet and Press Release
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Earth Week Call for K-12 Environmental Education

Facts about EE

A Graduate Research Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point conducted a survey of K-12 teachers and curriculum coordinators in Wisconsin schools. Twenty percent of Wisconsin school districts were sampled. The survey was completed in December 1999. Major findings:

- Only 40 percent of teachers surveyed said they were satisfied with their school district Environmental Education Curriculum Plan.
- 37 percent of K-12 curriculum coordinators surveyed indicated that their school districts didn't have an Environmental Education Curriculum Plan. Another 7 percent were uncertain.
- 85 percent of teachers surveyed supported reinstating the Environmental Education Consultant position in the Department of Public Instruction.
- 79 percent of teachers surveyed said they believed reinstating the DPI position would assist them in implementing an Environmental Education Curriculum.
- 96 percent of teachers surveyed said it is important to develop and implement an Environmental Education Curriculum Plan.
- In addition, a recent Roper Starch Worldwide Center poll showed that 96 percent of America's parents want environmental education taught to their children in K-12 schools.

The following support reinstating the DPI Environmental Education Consultant position in the DPI **and** incorporating Environmental Literacy into already mandated state assessments of K-12 students:

- Wisconsin lawmakers
- Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
- Citizens across the state of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board is a 15-member board created by the Wisconsin Legislature to monitor the state's progress on environmental education. The Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education is the state's professional organization for teachers and naturalists.