Summary of Response Frequencies and Means
1994 Environmental Education Survey of Wisconsin School Administrators

Editor Note: The following data was compiled from two environmental education surveys, one sent to Wisconsin public school principals and the other sent to directors of curriculum in February of 1994. Although questions on each survey were virtually identical, principals answered questions based on the situation in their school and directors of curriculum reported on the situation in their district. In this summary, the term "school/district" is used to indicate that the word "school" appeared in the principal survey and "district" appeared in the survey to directors of curriculum. Some other symbols in this survey are defined as follows:

principal/director of curriculum = the word "principal" appeared on the survey to principals and "director of curriculum" appeared on the survey to directors of curriculum
~ = question or response choice only appeared on surveys sent to principals
‡ = question or response choice only appeared on surveys sent to directors of curriculum
N = the total number of individuals who responded to the item
n = the number of individuals who chose a particular optional response in a given item
% = the percentage of individuals who selected a particular response

SECTION I

The purpose of this section was to obtain general information about the respondent's professional experience, degree of training in environmental education and his/her feelings towards environmental education.

		Principal		Director of Curriculum	
1.	Please indicate your primary job responsibilities:	(N=901)		(N=199)	
		n	%	n	%
1.	full time principal/director of curriculum	779	86.5	97	48.7
2.	...and district administrator for my district	39	4.3	62	31.2
3.	...and director of curriculum/instruction for my district ~	35	3.9	——	——
4.	...and principal for my district ‡	——	——	8	4.0
5.	...and other responsibilities	48	5.3	32	16.1

2.	How many years have you been a part or full time school principal/director of curriculum? (include previous job experiences)	(N=901)		(N=199)	
		n	%	n	%
1.	less than 3 years	140	15.5	38	19.1
2.	3-6 years	210	23.3	72	36.2
3.	7-10 years	151	16.8	35	17.6
4.	over 10 years	400	44.4	54	27.1

3. Please indicate which population you supervise or work with the most.

		(N=901)		(N=199)	
		n	%	n	%
1.	elementary personnel (K-8)	491	54.5	13	6.5
2.	middle school/jr. high personnel (6-9)	136	15.1	——	——
3	secondary personnel (9-12)	212	23.5	4	2 0
4.	personnel from all grade levels	31	3.4	173	86.9
5.	middle & secondary teachers -	31	3.4	——	——
6	other administrative staff ‡	——	——	9	4.5

4. Please estimate the number of environmental education courses, workshops or in-services you have attended.

		Principal (N=901)		Director of Curriculum (N=199)	
		n	%	n	%
1.	none	203	22.6	40	20.1
2.	1 - 2	368	40.9	95	47.7
3.	3 - 4	191	21.2	41	20.6
4	5 - 6	44	4.9	11	5.5
5	more than 6	93	10 3	12	6.0

For questions #5 through #14, administrators were asked to indicate their opinion about the following statements. In this summary, P = principals; DC = directors of curriculum.

	Schools should...		strongly disagree		disagree		undecided		agree		strongly agree	
			P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
5.	build student **awareness and sensitivity** to the total (human and natural) environment and its associated problems.	n	2	1	3	1	7	1	310	69	579	127
		%	.2	.5	.3	.5	.8	.5	34.4	34.7	64.3	63.8
6.	provide opportunities for students to acquire a **basic knowledge and understanding** of the environment and our human relationship to the environment.	n	4	2	--	--	2	--	326	65	568	132
		%	.4	1.0			.2		36.2	32.7	63.1	66.3
7.	provide opportunities for students to develop **attitudes and feelings** of concern for the environment.	n	4	2	8	1	28	9	363	82	496	105
		%	.4	1.0	.9	.5	3.1	4.5	40.4	41.2	55.2	52.8
8.	provide opportunities for students to acquire the **motivation and commitment** to participate in the maintenance and improvement of environmental quality.	n	2	2	9	2	77	17	407	90	404	88
		%	.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	8.6	8.5	45.3	45.2	44.9	44.2
9.	provide opportunities for students to develop **skills** needed to identify, investigate, and contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and problems.	n	3	2	6	--	44	5	425	78	421	114
		%	.3	1.0	.7		4.9	2.5	47.3	39.2	46.8	57.3
10.	provide students with opportunities to **gain actual experience** in resolving environmental issues.	n	3	1	20	3	146	22	411	91	318	82
		%	.3	.5	2.2	1.5	16.3	11.1	45.8	45.7	35.4	41.2
11.	Environmental education (EE) should be considered a priority in our K-12 educational system.	n	6	1	67	16	200	46	414	85	209	49
		%	.7	.5	7.5	8.1	22.3	23.4	46.2	43.1	23.3	24.9
12.	It is important that school districts be required to develop and implement an environmental education curriculum plan.	n	35	8	78	12	190	39	397	87	196	50
		%	3.9	4.1	8.7	6.1	21.2	19.9	44.3	44.4	21.9	25.5

For the next response, please use the following definition of infusion:

Infusion of education about the environment refers to the placing of environmental concepts and skills into an existing subject or course in a manner as to focus on those concepts and/or skills without jeopardizing the integrity of the original course. The aim is to "environmentalize" the existing course while still meeting the established objectives.

13	Education about the environment should be **infused** into the existing curricula in my school.	n	5	3	12	1	44	1	419	78	418	116
		%	.6	1.5	1.3	.5	4.9	.5	46.7	39.2	46.5	58.3
14	Education about the environment should be taught as a **separate subject** in my school.	n	261	62	348	79	153	22	86	28	47	6
		%	29.2	31.5	38.9	40.1	17.1	11.2	9.6	14.2	5.3	3.0

SECTION II

The purpose of this section was to obtain some general information about environmental education in the respondent's school and school district.

15. How many students are in your district?

		Principals (N=901)		Directors of Curriculum (N=199)	
		n	%	n	%
1.	under 1500	369	41.0	97	48.7
2.	1501-5,000	318	35.3	83	41.7
3.	over 5,000	214	23.8	19	9.5

16. Does your district have a written curriculum plan for environmental education?

	1. Yes		2. Not sure		3. No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
P (N=891)	521	58.5	179	20.1	191	21.4
DC (N=197)	153	77.7	9	4.6	35	17.8

17. How satisfied are you that your school district's environmental education curriculum plan is being implemented effectively in your school/district?

	1. Very satisfied		2. Satisfied		3. Not sure		4. Dissatisfied		5. Very dissatisfied	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
P (N=521)	48	9.3	267	51.6	118	22.8	79	15.3	5	1.0
DC (N=151)	10	6.6	68	45.0	36	23.8	33	21.9	4	2.6

18. In your **best estimate**, how much financial support (excluding personnel costs) does your school and your school district provide specifically for environmental education? Circle the number **for each category** which corresponds with the amount of money budgeted in your school and the amount of money budgeted in your district.

School Budget for Environmental Education -	Principals - (N = 798)		District Budget for Environmental Education	Principals (N = 668)		Directors of Curriculum (N = 191)	
	n	%		n	%	n	%
1. Not funded	306	38.3	1. Not funded	224	33.5	36	18.8
2. $ 1 - $250	135	16.9	2. $ 1 - $250	45	6.7	11	5.8
3. $ 251 - $500	139	17.4	3. $ 251 - $500	72	10.8	28	14.7
4. $ 501 - $1000	102	12.8	4. $ 501 - $1000	93	13.9	41	21.5
5. $1001 - $1500	40	5.0	5. $1001 - $5000	124	18.6	54	28.3
6. $1501 - $2000	16	2.0	6. $5001 - $10,000	41	6.1	8	4.2
7. over $2000	60	7.5	7. over $10,000	69	10.3	13	6.8

19.- Does your school have a person designated as the environmental education specialist, coordinator or chairperson? -

	1. Yes		2. Not sure		3. No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
P (N=898) -	369	41.1	75	8.4	454	50.6

20.- Please circle the response which most accurately describes the position: -

		Principals (N=364)	
		n	%
1.	full time, paid position	32	8.8
2.	part time, paid position	70	19.2
3.	voluntary position with release time	62	17.0
4.	voluntary position with no release time	200	54.9

19.‡ Does your district have one or more persons designated as the environmental education specialist(s), coordinator(s)

24.- or chairperson(s)?

	1. Yes		2. Not sure		3. No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
P (N=896)	342	38.2	116	12.9	438	48.9
DC (N=198)	91	46.0	7	3.5	100	50.5

20.‡ Please check the box(es) which most accurately describes the district EE position(s): ‡

	first position (N = 91)		second position (N = 21)		third position (N = 13)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
full time, paid position	7	7.7	3	14.3	2	15.4
part time, paid position	23	25.3	3	14.3	1	7.7
voluntary position with release time	19	20.9	2	9.5	-	-
voluntary position with no release time	42	46.2	13	61.9	10	76.9

21.- Does your school/district have an active environmental education committee?

22.‡

	1. Yes		2. Not sure		3. No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
P (N=899)	208	23.1	80	8.9	611	68.0
DC (N=198)	66	33.3	10	5.1	122	61.6

22.- Does your school/district provide '**release time**' for the environmental education committee to meet?

24.

	1. Yes		2. Unsure		3. No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
P (N=205)	81	39.5	13	6.3	111	54.1
DC (N=65)	45	69.2	1	1.5	19	29.2

23. Does your school provide **financial support** for the environmental education committee to meet?

	1. Yes		2. Unsure		3. No	
	n	%	**n**	%	**n**	%
P (N=206)	93	45.1	29	14.1	83	40.3
DC (N=65)	39	60.0	2	3.1	24	36.9

25. How many environmental education courses/in-services has your school or school district offered for teachers in the past three years?

	Principal (N=893)		**Director of Curriculum (N=198)**	
	n	%	**n**	%
1. 0	317	36.7	50	25.3
2. 1 - 2	336	38.9	81	40.9
3. 3 - 4	118	13.7	45	22.7
4. 5 - 6	39	4.5	11	5.6
5. 7 or more	53	6.1	11	5.6

26. Does your school and/or your school district provide financial support for teachers who wish to attend environmental education workshops or conferences not sponsored by your school or district?

	1. Yes		2. Unsure		3. No	
	n	%	**n**	%	**n**	%
P (N=898)	756	84.2	80	8.9	62	6.9
DC (N=199)	194	97.5	3	1.5	2	1.0

27. Does your school and/or school district provide **indirect funds** by way of payscale increments or other benefits to teachers who wish to attend environmental education workshops or conferences not sponsored by your school or district?

	1. Yes		2. Unsure		3. No	
	n	%	**n**	%	**n**	%
P (N=898)	427	47.6	107	11.9	364	40.5
DC (N=198)	99	50.0	8	4.0	91	46.0

28. In your **best estimate**, approximately how much time **per week** does the average teacher in your school spend teaching about the environment?

		Principal (N=891)		Director of Curriculum (N=199)	
		n	%	n	%
1. Less than 30 minutes		483	54.2	78	39.2
2. 31 minutes to 60 minutes	(1 hour)	254	28.5	68	34.2
3. 61 minutes to 90 minutes	(1 1/2 hours)	36	4.0	7	3.5
4. 91 minutes to 120 minutes	(2 hours)	13	1.5	2	1.0
5. 121 minutes to 150 minutes	(2 1/2 hours)	2	.2	1	.5
6. 151 minutes to 180 minutes	(3 hours)	-	-	1	.5
7. 181 minutes to 210 minutes	(3 1/2 hours)	-	-	-	-
8. 211 minutes to 240 minutes	(4 hours)	1	.1	-	-
9. Over 240 minutes	(more than 4 hours)	2	.2	-	-
10. Don't know		100	11.2	42	21.1

SECTION III

The purpose of this section is to obtain information about administrators' general support for EE. For the next nine statements, administrators indicated the extent to which they perform the following actions.

		to no extent		to a small extent		to a moderate extent		to a considerable extent		to a great extent		not applicable to my job	
		P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
...distribute EE information. (PN=899; DCN=198)	n	3	3	61	22	197	45	284	59	343	59	11	10
	%	.3	1.5	6.8	11.1	21.9	22.7	31.6	29.8	38.2	29.8	1.2	5.1
...encourage the utilization of community resource people for EE. (PN=900; DCN=197)	n	24	5	103	24	245	54	301	63	217	44	10	7
	%	2.7	2.5	11.4	12.2	27.2	27.4	33.4	32.0	24.1	22.3	1.1	3.6
...arrange planning time for EE. (PN=896; DCN=198)	n	56	8	130	16	221	41	255	63	139	51	95	19
	%	6.3	4.0	14.5	8.1	24.7	20.7	28.5	31.8	15.5	25.8	10.6	9.6
...give encouragement for efforts to teach about the environment. (PN=900; DCN=199)	n	6	2	40	9	191	37	362	87	295	60	6	4
	%	.7	1.0	4.4	4.5	21.2	18.6	40.2	43.7	32.8	30.2	.7	2.0
...arrange/request staff training in EE. (PN=897; DCN=199)	n	117	26	224	33	233	57	172	50	80	17	71	16
	%	13.0	13.1	25.0	16.6	26.0	28.6	19.2	25.1	8.9	8.5	7.9	8.0
...support/authorize requests to attend non-district sponsored EE workshops. (PN=899; DCN=199)	n	14	3	48	6	138	25	347	69	322	88	30	8
	%	1.6	1.5	5.3	3.0	15.4	12.6	38.6	34.7	35.8	44.2	3.3	4.0
...write/assist with writing grants for EE. (PN=900; DCN=197)	n	398	44	141	32	94	37	58	32	38	33	171	19
	%	44.2	22.3	15.7	16.2	10.4	18.8	6.4	16.2	4.2	16.8	19.0	9.6
...emphasize/allow others to emphasize EE at staff meetings. (PN=898; DCN=198)	n	49	14	173	22	260	59	249	58	144	23	23	22
	%	5.5	7.1	19.3	11.1	29.0	29.8	27.7	29.3	16.0	11.6	2.6	11.1
..arrange for resources and materials needed for EE. (PN=898; DCN=198)	n	55	9	173	29	261	54	249	54	109	28	49	24
	%	6.1	4.5	19.3	14.6	29.1	27.3	27.8	27.3	12.2	14.1	5.5	12.1

PN = total number of principals responding; DCN = total number of directors of curriculum responding.

The purpose of this section was to identify potential barriers to including or increasing environmental education in administrators' school or school district. Three categories of barriers were identified: personal, school-related, and district-related barriers. For each category, respondents ranked up to three which were:

1=most applicable 2=second most applicable 3=third most applicable

38. Of the following barriers, which (if any) do you feel are MOST applicable to your **personal situation**.

			Ranked #1		Ranked #2		Ranked #3		% of N who gave item a rank*	
			P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
a.	I do not have the knowledge or background to feel comfortable promoting EE.	n	94	13	161	25	92	24	347	62
		%	10.4	6.5	17.9	12.6	10.2	12.1	38.5	31.2
b.	I do not have the time to promote EE.	n	315	70	211	31	57	7	583	108
		%	35.0	35.2	23.4	15.6	6.3	3.5	64.7	54.3
c.	I do not have the personal interest.	n	11	5	25	6	67	6	103	17
		%	1.2	2.5	2.8	3.0	7.4	3.0	11.4	8.5
d.	I do not have any personal barriers.	n	395	86	73	21	69	11	537	118
		%	43.8	43.2	8.1	10.6	7.7	5.5	59.6	59.3
e.	Other	n	50	17	28	8	21	6	99	31
		%	5.5	8.5	3.1	4.0	2.3	3.0	10.9	15.6

*Percentage calculated by dividing the number of respondents who gave the item a rank by the total number of usable surveys (PN = 901; DCN = 199).

39. Of the following **school-related barriers**, which (if any) do you feel are MOST applicable to the situation in your school.

			Ranked #1		Ranked #2		Ranked #3		% of N who gave item a rank*	
			P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
a.	Teachers in my school/district do not have the knowledge or back-ground to teach about the environment effectively.	n	49	11	58	14	58	13	165	38
		%	5.4	5.5	6.4	7.0	6.4	6.5	18.3	19.1
b.	There is not enough class time.	n	250	44	103	34	91	12	444	90
		%	27.7	22.1	11.4	17.1	10.1	6.0	49.3	45.2
c.	Teachers do not have enough planning time.	n	147	41	183	34	70	17	400	92
		%	16.3	20.6	20.3	17.1	7.8	8.5	44.4	46.2
d.	There is not enough funding.	n	102	17	93	15	91	12	286	44
		%	11.3	8.5	10.3	7.5	10.1	6.0	31.7	22.1
e.	There are not enough material resources for EE available in my school.	n	28	6	43	2	46	8	117	16
		%	3.1	3.0	4.8	1.0	5.1	4.0	13.0	8.0
f.	Teachers feel environmental concepts are unrelated to their subject area.	n	31	10	27	9	33	16	91	35
		%	3.4	5.0	3.0	4.5	3.7	8.0	10.1	17.6
g.	The school setting is not conducive to teaching about the environment.	n	5	-	6	1	5	-	16	1
		%	.6		.7	.5	.6		1.8	.5
h.	Teachers feel education about the environment is not appropriate for the grade level they teach.	n	1	-	1	1	3	1	5	2
		%	.1		.1	.5	.3	.5	.6	1.0
i.	Teachers do not have the interest in teaching about the environment.	n	18	3	29	3	21	7	68	13
		%	2.0	1.5	3.2	1.5	2.3	3.5	7.5	6.5

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			#1		#2		#3		% of N	
			P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
j.	Teachers feel there are things other than EE that are more important to infuse into the classroom.	n	80	28	105	30	83	20	268	78
		%	8.9	14.1	11.7	15.1	9.2	10.1	29.7	39.2
k.	The staff development program does not currently provide opportunities for teachers to become more proficient in EE.	n	60	7	68	9	76	13	204	29
		%	6.7	3.5	7.5	4.5	8.4	6.5	22.6	14.6
l.	There are no school-related barriers in my school.	n	132	26	15	6	34	6	181	38
		%	14.7	13.1	1.7	3.0	3.8	3.0	20.1	19.1
m.	Other	n	21	8	8	1	8	3	37	12
		%	2.3	4.0	.9	.5	.9	1.5	4.1	6.0

*Percentage calculated by dividing the number of respondents who gave the item a rank by the total number of usable surveys.

40. Of the following **district-related** barriers, which (if any) do you feel are most applicable to the situation in your district?

			Ranked #1		Ranked #2		Ranked #3		gave item a rank*	
			P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
a.	There are not enough funds available to support a quality EE program.	n	415	70	100	17	21	4	536	91
		%	46.1	35.2	11.1	8.5	2.3	2.0	59.5	45.7
b.	The school board is not supportive of EE.	n	15	3	29	4	36	1	80	8
		%	1.7	1.5	3.2	2.0	4.0	.5	8.9	4.0
c.	The District Administrator is not supportive of EE.	n	10	–	22	2	9	1	41	3
		%	1.1		2.4	1.0	1.0	.5	4.6	1.5
d.‡	The principals in my district do not support EE.	n	---	4	---	3	---	4	---	11
		%		2.0		1.5		2.0		5.5
d.~	The director of curriculum/instruction for my district is not supportive of EE.	n	8	---	17	---	15	---	40	---
		%	.9		1.9		1.7		4.4	
e.	There is not enough public support for EE in my district.	n	49	8	112	24	41	10	202	42
		%	5.4	4.0	12.4	12.1	4.6	5.0	22.4	21.1
f.	There are no district-related barriers in my district.	n	298	90	49	8	37	2	384	100
		%	33.1	45.2	5.4	4.0	4.1	1.0	42.6	50.3
g.	Other	n	59	18	22	6	10	6	91	30
		%	6.5	9.0	2.4	3.0	1.1	3.0	10.1	15.1

*Percentage calculated by dividing the number of respondents who gave the item a rank by the total number of usable surveys (PN = 901; DCN = 199).

41. Please indicate the top <u>three</u> statements which **BEST** represent the situation that would most influence you to include or increase environmental education in your school. Put a "1" in the box corresponding to the most influential situation, a "2" in the box corresponding to the second most influential situation, etc.

			Ranked						% of N who gave item a rank*	
			#1		#2		#3			
			P	DC	P	DC	P	DC	P	DC
a.	More support from my administration.	n	8	1	12	1	16	2	36	4
		%	.9	.5	1.3	.5	1.8	1.0	4.0	2.0
b.	More support from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.	n	38	9	26	8	43	11	107	28
		%	4.2	4.5	2.9	4.0	4.8	5.5	11.9	14.1
c.	More in-service workshops on EE specifically for administrators.	n	32	2	33	8	36	10	101	20
		%	3.6	1.0	3.7	4.0	4.0	5.0	11.2	10.1
d.	More in-service workshops on EE for teachers.	n	98	33	131	27	125	23	354	83
		%	10.9	16.6	14.5	13.6	13.9	11.6	39.3	41.7
e.	Better access to resources for teaching about the environment.	n	64	12	92	18	101	23	257	53
		%	7.1	6.0	10.2	9.0	11.2	11.6	28.5	26.4
f.	More time.	n	324	79	179	33	84	12	587	124
		%	36.0	39.7	19.9	16.6	9.3	6.0	65.1	62.3
g.	More funding.	n	205	34	206	46	106	24	517	104
		%	22.8	17.1	22.9	23.1	11.8	12.1	57.4	52.3
h.	More public support for EE.	n	23	6	45	9	61	13	129	28
		%	2.6	3.0	5.0	4.5	6.8	6.5	14.3	14.1
i.	More teacher interest in EE.	n	91	17	96	25	78	28	265	70
		%	10.1	8.5	10.7	12.6	8.7	14.1	29.4	35.2
j.	Other	n	20	9	4	4	11	2	35	15
		%	2.2	4.5	.4	2.0	1.2	1.0	3.9	7.5

*Percentage calculated by dividing the number of respondents who gave the item a rank by the total number of usable surveys (PN = 901; DCN = 199).