

Project WILD Educator Survey: Instrument Development and Pilot Study Findings

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This report summarizes the process of development, testing, and revision of an evaluation instrument that would provide Project WILD coordinators with the information they most need from educators that use Project WILD.

The pilot evaluation instrument was developed by an evaluation specialist with the assistance of a panel of Project WILD State Coordinators. The instrument addressed seven evaluative questions:

- What do Project WILD educators do?
- How do educators *use* Project WILD?
- What motivates educators to use Project WILD?
- What are educators' beliefs about Project WILD?
- What are educators' values about Project WILD?
- Is Project WILD "user friendly?"
- Who does Project WILD?

The first question was answered with a reflective number response regarding number of activities per class/program; number of different activities used per year; and number of activities used over all years of doing Project WILD. The second through sixth questions were addressed through summative scales using Likert-type scale measurements of degree or importance. The final scale included basic demographic information. Respondents were able to complete information for Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, WILD School Sites, and the Ancillary Guides.

Seven states piloted the instrument, with a total of 231 educators completing the evaluation. While this was a test of the instrument, the findings were aggregated and reported.

Piloting indicated that the instrument measures were very strong and reliable, but that some changes were required and were made.

The report summarizes the findings from the 231 surveys that were completed. These include:

- Training programs provide educators with an overview of the materials and tools for accessing activities beyond those conducted during the training efforts.
- In general, educators use Project WILD as lessons within units, but do not infuse activities throughout the curriculum.
- There are opportunities for Project WILD to focus on several strategies to reach additional educators.
- Educators feel comfortable using the Project WILD resources and this comfort relates to the training, the ease of use of materials, and their ability to adapt activities.
- Teachers who use Project WILD to help meet standards are more likely to be motivated by correlations of Project WILD activities to state standards and curriculum.

A copy of the revised survey is included with the report.