

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

MEMORANDUM

December 12, 2005

To: Parish/City School Superintendents

From: Cecil J. Picard
State Superintendent of Education

Subject: Federal Funding For Districts that Enrolled Hurricane Displaced Students

I have been working with our Congressional Delegation to obtain federal funding to help local school districts meet the costs of educating the students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Congress has been extremely slow to provide federal funding to help local school districts, and it is imperative that they act before the Christmas break.

U.S. Senators Enzi and Kennedy attached an amendment to the budget reconciliation bill currently pending in Congress that will provide \$6,000/regular education student and \$7,500/special education student enrolled. It is also possible that this amendment will be added to one of the other appropriation bills pending in Congress. **Congress is scheduled to vote on the budget bills this week, with the first votes to take place on Wednesday, December 14.** We must make Washington understand our critical need.

Please fax and/or email the members of Louisiana's Congressional Delegation and the money committees of the U.S. House and Senate *immediately* and *urge them to support the Enzi-Kennedy Amendment to provide hurricane relief funding for displaced students.*

I have attached contact information for the members of Congress I would like for you to contact today. We need volume and intensity if we want our message heard. I have also attached a sample letter you can use to fax, and there is suggested language for use in the message box of your emails.

I know you understand the importance of this issue. The additional cost of providing instruction to these children is straining the resources of many school districts to the breaking point. Washington needs to hear directly from us of our need for federal assistance.

I appreciate your help and thank you in advance for your quick response. If you have any questions, please contact me or Jeanne Johnston in my office. Her number is 225-342-0716.

CJP:JCJ

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