

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. HOW LONG WILL CHILDREN BE OUT OF SCHOOL AND WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR STUDENTS?

It is impossible to know how long schools will be closed in parts of Louisiana. The Department of Education is encouraging displaced students to enroll in school in the community where they are seeking temporary shelter. You should contact the local school district office concerning placement of your child. A complete list of local school district contact information can be found on our website by clicking on "School Directory."

East Baton Rouge Parish is asking that evacuee parents contact them at 225-226-3762, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you are seeking temporary shelter out of state you should contact the local county school system and inform them that your child has been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We are sending information throughout the country concerning availability of student records and information.

2. WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL UNIFORMS?

We have asked all local school districts in Louisiana to provide flexibility for evacuee students in the area of uniforms. It is important for students enrolled quickly with as little disruption as possible.

3. WHAT SHOULD TEACHERS/SUPPORT WORKERS IN THE IMPACTED AREAS DO ABOUT EMPLOYEMENT?

Teachers/Support Workers who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina are being encouraged to apply for jobs in the areas where they are seeking temporary shelter. Many of these districts are enrolling evacuee students will need additional teachers and support staff. Teachers can also file for unemployment through the Louisiana by visiting local unemployment agencies or filing on line with the Department of Labor, www.laworks.net.

4. WHAT ABOUT TEACHER/SUPPORT WORKER PAY?

If you are employed in Orleans Parish, you can call 1-877-771-5800 for more information. Orleans Parish school employees will continue to receive health care benefits, including individuals who recently received layoff notices.

Other impacted school districts are attempting to reestablish their business operations in Baton Rouge. Future updates will be given as we receive them.

5. WHERE CAN OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS/TEACHERS BE MADE?

Those wanting to offer help, assistance, school supplies or monetary donations for the children of Louisiana should email the Department of Education at customerservice@la.gov.

6. WHAT ABOUT TOPS SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY?

Information concerning Louisiana's TOPS scholarships can be found at www.osfa.state.la.us or by calling 1-800-259-5626, Ext. 1012.

7. WHAT ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN?

All children who currently have coverage on the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) or Medicaid will have their renewal dates extended by six months. This means that families will not have to complete a renewal form on their usual yearly renewal date. Because of the severe statewide impact of Hurricane Katrina, all of Louisiana Medicaid's staff is needed to sign up families who have been devastated by the Hurricane and need health coverage. Current LaCHIP or Medicaid families will receive a letter in the mail when it is time for the child's LaCHIP or Medicaid to be renewed again. Parents are asked to report any change of address to LaCHIP or the Medicaid program to ensure that they receive all letters about their child's coverage. For more information, parents can visit www.lachip.org or call the Medicaid General Hotline at 1-888-342-6207.

If you or your family has been displaced by Hurricane Katrina, help is also available through Louisiana's Hurricane Katrina Medicaid Program, which provides temporary no-cost health insurance for persons who have been affected by this hurricane.

You may be able to get this health coverage if you or the person who needs health coverage is 65 or older, blind, pregnant, a parent with children younger than 19 in the family or a person with a serious physical or mental disability that is expected to last at least 12 months or will result in death.

Louisiana Medicaid will also look at the amount of income a person or family has and the things of value that a person or family owns. For assistance or more information, call the Medicaid General Hotline toll free at 1-888-342-6207 or visit our website at www.Medicaid.dhh.louisiana.gov

Louisiana Medicaid has set up a process for people on Medicaid to report their temporary addresses. This can be done by calling 1-888-342-6207 or by visiting our Web site, www.medicaid.dhh.la.gov.

8. ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Red Cross 1-800-GET-INFO (1-800-438-4636)
 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669)

FEMA 1-800-621-FEMA

Louisiana Dept. of
Education 1-877-453-2721

Texas School Information 1-800-957-5109