

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita FEMA-DR-1603/1607-LA Information Sheet 006 - Amended

Education - Temporary Facilities for Schools

The FEMA policy for providing temporary relocation (FEMA Policy #9523.3) and the Disaster Specific Guidance (#2) describing the eligibility of costs associated with sheltering, do not address another aspect of the situation created by the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. When schools were severely damaged, their students were displaced from their home districts. As a result, other school districts had an influx of thousands of students.

These thousands of displaced students are now impacting schools that were not damaged in the disaster. The first question is whether the local government or school district may apply for Public Assistance grant funding on the basis that significant temporary costs have resulted from accepting displaced students. The answer is “yes.” Costs would be under Category B, Emergency Protective Measures. Schools fall into two categories:

- Schools that need to lease or acquire additional classroom space for the increase in school population; and
- Schools that are able to accommodate the additional students in their existing structures (by increasing class size, by temporarily converting the library or some other space to classroom use, etc.)

Additional eligible costs associated with significant increases in student population include:

- Additional security,
- Additional counselors,
- Additional janitors, maintenance people, and costs,
- Buses,
- Furniture, fixtures, equipment, supplies, etc.,
- Additional operating costs such as utilities and food service.

The following costs are not eligible under the FEMA Public Assistance program:

- Teacher salaries,
- Teacher aide salaries, and
- Additional books.

Private Non Profit (PNP) Schools in Host Areas

Eligible PNP schools in host areas may receive assistance for increased costs of educating evacuee students in grades K-12. Tuition is not an eligible cost. The PNP schools may apply only through a governmental entity for eligible reimbursement costs. The eligible State or local PA Applicant must provide a written statement certifying that the PNP is providing educational services for evacuee students as a part of the community’s overall education plan.

The United States Department of Education special funding, if appropriated, likely will provide for some of these costs, although we understand that the bill may not cover some costs, such as furniture. United States Department of Education funding, when available, should be used before FEMA funding.

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Because this document is not exhaustive, either in topics or in detail, information should be verified with FEMA Public Assistance Program officials before becoming the basis for decision making.