

If you are a former Louisiana student displaced in another state due to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita, you have several options for high school graduation. These questions and answers can help you decide your options and how to proceed.

1. What are my options for high school graduation?

You may earn a high school diploma from the state where you are now residing, or you may learn a Louisiana high school diploma if you meet the Louisiana graduation requirements.

2. Who is eligible for the Distance Diploma program?

Students are eligible if they are former Louisiana public school students displaced due to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita and plan to graduate this year. Displaced students who have completed course requirements but need to retake the Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) are also eligible.

3. If I want to earn the Louisiana diploma, what are the requirements?

You must earn 23 "Carnegie units" (course credits) and pass the Louisiana Graduation Exit Examination (GEE).

4. How do I get started?

See your guidance counselor to sign-up. The guidance counselor should login to the Louisiana Department of Education's website, <http://www.louisianaschools.net/>, and click on "Distance Diplomas" to get you signed-up.

5. How can I take the Louisiana Graduation Exit Examination (GEE) if I am out-of-state?

- The GEE will be offered in an online format (GEE Online).
- You will be able to take the GEE Online two additional times this school year – January 22-26, and April 23-27.

6. How will I get my diploma?

- Your Louisiana diploma will be sent to your home address.
- Check with your current school counselor or administrator regarding participation in graduation ceremonies.

7. Will I be able to receive TOPS?

For information on possible waivers of TOPS requirements for students displaced by the hurricanes as well as any other questions related to TOPS, call the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance at 800-259-5626 or check their website, located at <http://www.osfa.state.la.us/>.

8. Whom can I contact for more information?

Contact the Louisiana Department of Education toll-free at 1-877-453-2721 or look us up on the web at www.louisianaschools.net.

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