

**Questions and Answers for
Non-Public Schools
On
Impact Aid for Displaced Students Program**

Eligibility

- **May a student relocated to a different home as a result of the hurricanes, but attending the same school as previously attended be counted in the Displaced Student count?**

No, this student does not meet the definition of a displaced student; a student must be attending a DIFFERENT SCHOOL to be eligible for these funds.

- **If a student is attending the same school after the hurricanes as he/she attended prior to the hurricanes, but parents are unable to pay tuition because they have lost their job, would this parent be eligible to apply for the Impact Aid for Displaced Students funds?**

No, the student in this situation does not meet the definition of a displaced student. A student must be attending a DIFFERENT SCHOOL to be eligible for these funds.

Participation

- **Is it mandatory that parents of eligible children participate in this program?**

No, participation in this program is voluntary and must be initiated exclusively by the parents of eligible students.

- **May the school apply on behalf of the parents whose tuition was waived?**

No, the school may not apply for the parents. The application must be initiated by the parents.

Student Count

- **Is Pre-K to be included in the number of displaced students counted?**

No, Pre-K may NOT be included in the number of displaced students reported for the Impact Aid for Displaced Students program.

- **May students enrolled on September 30, 2005 but not October 3, 2005 in a school different than their original school be included in the October 3, 2005 student count?**

No, the count of displaced students must take place on October 3rd.

- **Is the displaced student count specific to the period of time surrounding that date?**

No, the displaced student count must be as of a specified point in time. A child has to be enrolled on each of these dates specified and meet the other specified criteria to be counted. For example, if a student is enrolled in a school on October 12 and stays through December 1, then he may be counted on December 1. However, if a student is enrolled on October 12, but leaves on October 20, then the student may not be counted in October or December.

Parent Application

- **Must the parent application have an original signature?**

Yes, an application with the original signature must be obtained by the nonpublic school for auditing purposes. However, due to the unusual circumstances of some parents and the inability of the U. S. Postal Service to service some hurricane affected areas, the school may accept fax copies initially in order to be able to include numbers of requests for funding in the nonpublic school application. Ultimately, the school must have an original parent signature on the application in order for the funds to be distributed.

Tuition and Fees

- **Are fees included in the amount that may be requested?**

Yes, the definition of tuition includes registration fees, book fees, lab fees, computer fees, and other similar fees. Also included are reasonable transportation costs.

- **If parents have already paid tuition, must they be reimbursed by the nonpublic school with these funds?**

Yes, the school must distribute the funds on behalf of the eligible child to the parents as reimbursement for the tuition paid.

- **If a nonpublic school has waived tuition for displaced students, does the school receive payment from these funds equivalent to the amount waived?**

Yes, if tuition has been waived, the nonpublic school will be the ultimate recipient of these funds to cover the amount waived.

- A child’s tuition was paid for partially through a donation, and the remainder was paid by the church. May the individuals or entities that paid the tuition be reimbursed instead of the parents?**

No, only parents of eligible students may request this assistance and be reimbursed for tuition.
- Is tuition paid to nonpublic schools prior to the hurricanes eligible for funding through this program?**

No, this program is only intended to provide assistance to parents who incurred costs by enrolling their children in nonpublic schools as a result of the hurricanes. Only the tuition the parent paid to the new school, where their student is considered a displaced student, is eligible for reimbursement under this law. Therefore, any tuition paid prior to this disaster is ineligible for assistance under this program.
- Is tuition calculated to correspond to the student count dates?**

Yes, annual tuition should be divided into 4 equal amounts with eligibility for each amount based on the 4 enrollment dates. For example, annual tuition of a student is \$2,000. If a student is counted on October 3rd, then he/she would be eligible for a quarter of a year’s tuition equal to \$500. If a student is counted on October 3rd and December 1st, then the student would be eligible for \$1,000.
- What amount may a parent request?**

A parent should request the actual amount of tuition paid, but by law they will receive a maximum of \$1,500 per count date/\$6,000 annually.
- What goes in the “Amount of Tuition Waived” and the “Amount of Tuition Charged or to be Charged”?**

The Amount of Tuition Waived is the amount of tuition that is normally charged but because of the circumstances the school did not charge. The Amount of Tuition Charged or to be Charged is the actual amount paid by the parent or guardian or the actual amount that the parent or guardian is legally bound to pay but has not paid yet. For example if normal tuition is \$2,000 and the parent only paid \$1,000 then \$1,000 would be considered waived. Therefore, if the student is enrolled on October 3rd, then the Amount of Tuition Waived would be \$250 and the Amount of Tuition Charged or to be Charged would be \$250.

Deadlines

- **May the deadlines for the submission of the parent applications and the nonpublic school applications be extended?**

No, the deadlines for submission of the parent application have been set by the USDOE. There can be no extensions.

- **Will there be another opportunity for submission of parent applications and nonpublic school applications?**

Yes, applications omitted from the first submission may be submitted in later submissions occurring between February and April 2006. Specific deadlines are being developed and will be released in the near future.