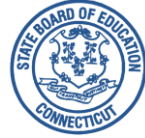




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education *DRW*

**DATE:** September 19, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Displaced Children from Storms Irma and Harvey

In the wake of the damaging effects of recent hurricanes in the southern United States, we are reminding Connecticut school districts to identify children of school age who have been displaced and may have travelled to Connecticut and are in need of assistance. School can be a place of stability, normalcy and support for children and youth who are displaced by disasters. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Children and youth who are displaced by hurricane Irma and Harvey are eligible for the protections and services of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. They are also unlikely to have the documents typically required for school enrollment. Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, these students have the right to enroll immediately in the attendance area where they are currently living, even if they lack paperwork typically required for enrollment. These students will automatically qualify to receive free school meals and may also be provided with health and other related services necessary to ensure their academic success.

Per established procedures, all students experiencing homelessness must be accurately reported in the statewide public school information system (PSIS). Local homeless education liaisons and other school personnel who have identified a student as homeless must routinely provide the PSIS district coordinator with relevant information regarding the homeless status of a student and their primary nighttime residence. Please ensure that all students identified as homeless are consistently and accurately represented in the district's PSIS data.

Thank you for all of your assistance in helping these families achieve some stability following these traumatic events. For additional assistance related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact Louis Tallarita at (860)807-2058 or [louis.tallarita@ct.gov](mailto:louis.tallarita@ct.gov).

DRW:JF:lt

cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer  
John D. Frassinelli, Bureau Chief