



State of New Jersey


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To: School Business Administrators
Charter School Leads
Non-Public School Administrators
Food Service Directors

From: Rose Tricario, Director
Division of Food and Nutrition 

Date: September 7, 2011

Subject: School Nutrition Program and Effects of Hurricane Irene

In light of the many flooding issues resulting from Hurricane Irene, the USDA is prepared to assist schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs as much as possible. However, first-hand knowledge of what problems are out there is required. Therefore, if you are dealing with issues from Hurricane Irene affecting the federal school nutrition programs in any way, please communicate with our office as indicated below.

For example:

- Have any school nutrition program records been lost or destroyed?
- Have any commodity food items been lost or destroyed?
- Are any of your students displaced from their homes?
 - **Note:** Students that have been displaced and are currently staying in shelters or in another household, can be considered as “homeless” if verified as such by the school district’s homeless liaison.
 - These homeless students (as a result of Hurricane Irene) are categorically eligible for free meals. However, as of now this status would be considered to be temporary, until further guidance is issued by USDA.
- Any difficulty getting deliveries of all required meal components?

Send in a description of any situations you are dealing with that affect the school nutrition programs by email to Lee Hayes, at lee.hayes@ag.state.nj.us. Or, you may fax your information to Lee’s attention at 609-984-0878.

Information received will be relayed to USDA, and answers/information received back will be conveyed to the school districts as quickly as possible.