

NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office: Jon Zlock Kathryn Forsyth, Director 609-292-1126

For Release: March 16, 2006

119 Districts to Receive Aid for Housing Displaced Hurricane Students

The 119 New Jersey school districts that accepted students displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita have received more than \$216,000 as part of the first round of federal funding distributed by Department of Education officials today.

The funding is available because of the federal Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program, which was established in December as part of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act.

"This money enables the department to help school districts that opened their doors to aid students who desperately needed it," said acting Commissioner Lucille E. Davy. "While New Jersey was not physically impacted by this national tragedy, our schools did their part to help those who were."

The aid is based on enrollment counts received by the department as of October 1, 2005. In the first quarter, school districts reported an enrollment of 284 students who were displaced by the hurricanes.

The DOE will be issuing additional aid based on counts received as of December 1 and February 1, as well as counts the department will receive on April 1. Release dates for the additional three installments have not been determined to date.

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the southeast United States in late August 2005, schools quickly responded to help students whose families evacuated to the state.

The New Jersey school districts that housed students are from every part of the state. Jersey City (16), Clifton (13), Paterson (13) and Lawrence Township (10) served the most students.

A list of school districts and their first quarter allocations is attached. For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.