



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 12, 2005

TO: Local and Intermediate Superintendents; Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Carol L. Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: UPDATE: Hurricane Katrina Student Evacuee Enrollments  
NEW INFORMATION: USDA Commodity Food Distribution Program

UPDATE

The student evacuee information that you are submitting each day by 3 p.m. has become even more critical. Not only is this information being used by the state and county Human Services Offices, but the U. S. Department of Agriculture is also requesting numbers of adults and students in order to plan for commodity food distribution. Please submit student information only as your situation changes and you enroll additional students. Information is submitted via the spreadsheet at [www.michigan.gov/mde-hurricane](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-hurricane).

Your county DHS office continues to be the point of contact for all evacuees. Please encourage all evacuees to go to the DHS office and also to register at 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362) However, a completed FEMA application is NOT a prerequisite to enroll a student.

NEW INFORMATION

The USDA has diverted many truckloads of commodities from school programs scheduled for other states in order to supply food for congregate feeding in southern evacuee centers. Only one truckload of green beans has been cancelled for Michigan schools, but additional diversions may occur. There is a reported shortage of trucks to make the necessary deliveries to the Katrina-stricken areas potentially delaying future commodity deliveries to warehouses in Michigan over the next several months.

Your district may be contacted by the American Red Cross or Salvation Army to contribute USDA donated commodities for a congregate feeding site for evacuees of Katrina in your area. Districts are expected to cooperate with these organizations. If other groups contact you, please notify MDE prior to donating USDA commodities. Because Michigan is an Emergency Declaration State, your district's commodities will be replaced by USDA only if they are released to an approved agency/site. You will need to document all USDA commodities donated to disaster organizations and send that information to MDE in order to qualify for reimbursement. All questions regarding USDA donated commodities may be directed to Jayme Priest at [priestj@michigan.gov](mailto:priestj@michigan.gov).

Please check for e-mails periodically and update your student information by 3 p.m. each day as necessary. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request other than USDA commodities, please contact me through my assistant, Charlene Merrick, at 517-241-0062 or [merrickc@michigan.gov](mailto:merrickc@michigan.gov). Thank you.

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