




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

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

DATE: May 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Hurricane and Disaster Relief Funding

On April 25, 2018, the United States Department of Education (USDE) announced the [applications and instructions](#) for hurricane and disaster relief funding authorized by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018: the *Temporary Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students (Emergency Impact Aid)* program and *Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth* program. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will make application for the *Emergency Impact Aid*, which will provide assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and non-public schools that have enrolled students displaced during the 2017-18 school year by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma or Maria or the 2017 California wildfires.

Under the Emergency Impact Aid program, the USDE will award a grant to CSDE, via an application process on the basis of quarterly counts of displaced students, as reported by the LEAs. Upon receipt of the grant funds, the CSDE will then provide payments to eligible LEAs to assist with the cost of educating students who were displaced during the 2017-18 school year and who were enrolled in public schools, including charter schools, and non-public schools.

To be eligible, based on USDE requirements, **LEAs must submit an application to the CSDE no later than May 15, 2018.** If a student is enrolled for all four reporting periods, the annual per pupil grant shall be:

- \$9,000 for each displaced student who is an English learner, as that term is defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
 - \$10,000 for each displaced student who is a child with a disability; and
 - \$8,500 for each student who is not reported as a child with a disability or an English learner.
- Note: Payments may be ratably reduced by the USDE if there are not enough funds to pay the full amounts.

Four quarterly count dates for identifying numbers of eligible displaced students have been established: October 10, 2017; December 8, 2017; February 9, 2018; and April 10, 2018. LEAs may subsequently provide any updates to the submitted enrollment data, if needed, by June 15, 2018. Given the weekly reporting established by CSDE since October 2017, we believe that timely and accurate reporting for all quarters will be achieved in the May 15, 2018, application.

Application Requirements

To apply for funding, an LEA must provide:

1. Student-level data for all four quarterly count dates as detailed in the “Instructions” tab of the attached excel file; and

2. Certification by Local Education Agencies for 2018 Temporary Emergency Impact Aid document, included as attachment, that requests information about the LEA applicant and signed by the authorized representative. (Submit the signed certification electronically to louis.tallarita@ct.gov.)

Please do not e-mail the completed excel file because it contains confidential student information. Instead, upload it using the secure site as described in the “Instructions” tab within the excel file. If there are any questions regarding the student-level data, please contact Kendra Shakir at Kendra.shakir@ct.gov or 860-713-6896.

These items must be received no later than May 15, 2018. We are unable to grant any extensions to this deadline.

Non-public School Application

Parents of non-public school displaced students are allowed to submit applications to the LEAs where the non-public school is located. A Certification by Non-Public Schools template and a Non-Public School Parent or Guardian Application template are attached. An “eligible non-public school” means a non-public elementary school or secondary school that is accredited or licensed or otherwise operates in accordance with State law, was in existence on February 9, 2018, and serves a displaced student on behalf of whom an application for an account has been made. The students’ parents must have chosen to enroll the students in a non-public school prior to February 9, 2018.

LEAs are advised to immediately implement a process and procedures that allow non-public schools and parents of non-public school displaced students to submit applications to the LEA. LEAs are advised to maintain these source documents. LEAs must include the numbers of eligible non-public school displaced students in the required excel file described above. LEAs awarded funds on behalf of eligible non-public school displaced students must make payments to accounts on behalf of non-public students within 14 calendar days of receiving payments from the CSDE. Administrators of eligible non-public schools are recipients of this memorandum.

Use of Funds

LEAs may use program funds to provide instructional opportunities for displaced students who enroll in their schools and for expenses the recipient incurs in serving displaced students. Examples of allowable expenses include:

- paying the compensation of personnel, including teacher aides, in schools enrolling displaced students;
- identifying and acquiring curricular material and classroom supplies;
- acquiring or leasing mobile educational units or leasing sites and spaces (to the extent that those costs are not met by FEMA);
- providing basic instructional services for displaced students, including tutoring, mentoring, or academic counseling;
- paying reasonable transportation costs; providing health and counseling services; and
- providing education and support services.

The recipients may use these funds for pre-award costs, including the reimbursement of expenditures incurred prior to the receipt of a grant. LEAs must obligate funds received under this program by December 30, 2018, for expenses incurred during the 2017-2018 school year. Applicants are cautioned not to commit such funds until an official award letter is received.

Technical Assistance Conference Call

A conference call is planned to review the parameters of this funding and provide assistance with this application process. The call will be held by the CSDE on **Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 8:30 a.m.** This conference call is optional. Anyone interested in participating in the conference call may join by calling 1-415-655-0002 on that date/time using access code #665 550 943.

If you have any questions, please contact Louis Tallarita, Education Consultant, at 860-807-2058 or e-mail louis.tallarita@ct.gov.

DRW:lt

cc: Non-Public School Administrators

Attachments: (5)

Definition of Displaced Students

2018 Application by Local Education Agencies for Temporary Emergency Impact Aid (Excel file)

Certification by Local Education Agencies for 2018 Temporary Emergency Impact Aid

Certification by Non-Public Schools for 2018 Temporary Emergency Impact Aid

Application by Non-Public School Parent or Guardian for 2018 Temporary Emergency Impact Aid