



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

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

**DATE:** August 14, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Supporting the Educational Needs of Students Who Have Been Displaced

As we have closed out the 2017-18 school year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the many school district personnel from around the state for your continuing efforts to support students displaced by the storm-related events of this past year. As children and families began arriving in Connecticut from Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, Florida and other affected areas, Connecticut schools responded immediately by enrolling students and addressing their needs effectively. These efforts not only provided access to classrooms for thousands of children and youth, but also provided needed assistance for children and families in addressing the trauma that they encountered.

We are currently awaiting the U.S. Department of Education's formal approval of the recent funding request for Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program. Once notification is received, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is committed to dispersing these funds expeditiously. Districts that submitted an application for funding should be prepared to expend funds in a responsible manner that is consistent with any terms and conditions associated with these funds.

During the past year, the CSDE received many questions concerning the appropriate placement and advancement of displaced students. In an effort to provide relevant support to districts in navigating similar challenges when students change school unexpectedly, the CSDE has prepared the attached Questions and Answers (Q&A) document. It addresses some of the more frequently presented questions related to placing students and keeping them on track for grade advancement and high school graduation. This document will be preserved for future online access at the [CSDE Homeless Education webpage](#) as a related resource.

Additionally, for students displaced from a primary or secondary school in Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Department of Education has developed the Student Records Exchange (SRX) platform to facilitate the exchange of public school student records with other U.S. school districts. Connecticut school districts needing access to a student's previous record from Puerto Rico can easily access SRX by using the information provided in the SRX brochure attached to this correspondence. Districts wishing to exchange records and documents for students returning to Puerto Rico may use SRX for that purpose as well.

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With the start of a new school year approaching, please ensure that your McKinney-Vento local educational agency (LEA) liaison information is accurate. A listing of Connecticut LEA liaisons can be found on the CSDE website at [Homeless Liaison Directory](#). To provide any contact updates, use the link available at the directory or e-mail [louis.tallarita@ct.gov](mailto:louis.tallarita@ct.gov) directly. For additional assistance related to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact Louis Tallarita at (860) 807-2058 or [louis.tallarita@ct.gov](mailto:louis.tallarita@ct.gov).

DRW:lt

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

Attachments(2)