

Good afternoon!

The Texas Homeless Education Office (THEO) commends all of you for the valiant efforts you have undertaken in the few short hours you have had to assist families and students dealing with the consequences of Hurricane Harvey. We have a long road ahead of us to provide the stability and learning and living environments to which everyone was accustomed before the events of this past weekend.

THEO has put together a list of resources to assist you in your work along with some reminders about the task at hand:

1. All LEAs should do everything they can to track students in their district or entering their district that have been affected by Harvey

As has been the case with previous disasters, conversation have started at the federal and state levels about the need for and the extent of additional financial support for school districts impacted by the storm. It will be some time before any determinations are made about whether additional aid will be available, the extent of this assistance, how it can be used, and how it will be delivered. However, we also know that previous aid programs have required districts to be able to verify the number of students it is serving that have been impacted by the particular storm or disaster at hand. So, be sure that you add a "Harvey Indicator" to your local school database systems to track these students until some other mechanism becomes available. The PEIMS instructions and templates on the THEO website do have a space for indicating the nature or name of a storm impacting on the life of enrolling students, so, if nothing else, a paper record can help keep track of these number until another solution arises. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) may have resources in the works, too; but, this will help in the interim.

2. The THEO website has been updated with helpful disaster response information

The THEO website has a new article under the News section in the right-hand margin that has a listing of all the major resources for assisting families affected by Hurricane harvey (<http://www.theotx.org/local-state-federal-resources-aid-dealing-hurricane-harvey/>). This page includes links to FEMA, DHHS, TEA, USDE and other helpful resources.

The THEO website also a new resource section dedicated to Disaster Response (http://www.theotx.org/resource_type/disaster-response/). Helpful tools are listed for dealing with disasters and student trauma.

Please let us know what resources you are lacking to be the most effective in your work in helping your student and families. We will do our best to help you find them.

Take good care!

The THEO Staff

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