



Deputy Commissioner
Office of Instructional Support
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Dear Parents and Community Members:

Recently, Hurricane Irma (2017) has impacted the U.S. Virgin Islands, and several other countries in the Caribbean, leaving thousands displaced. The New York State Education Department (NYSED or Department) is aware that hurricane Irma has impacted these areas and that many children have been displaced and forced to leave the island. The mounting scope of these tragedies and what it means for these impacted areas.

The Department is prepared to assist students and children in New York State (NYS) public schools. Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento), children identified as homeless at school without the documents normally required for enrollment of students displaced by natural disaster will fall under the protection of the McKinney-Vento Act.

However, families displaced by natural disaster who do not have the documents identified in this letter should bring them if they have them. If documents are not required for enrollment of students, having them in your possession may expedite your child's enrollment and placement. Families should also keep in mind that enrollment is required by district, provided they follow certain minimum requirements.

On the following pages, we have identified schools that are currently being offered in NYS public schools as well as information about these schools. This information can be found on NYSED's Office of Bilingual Education website at <http://www.nysed.gov/bilingual-ed>

Sincerely,

Angelica Infante-Green
Deputy Commissioner for the Office of P-12
Instructional Support



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**Individuals Entitled to McKinney-Vento
Protection May Enroll Immediately
Without Records**

It is expected that many individuals recently displaced by hurricanes who come to NYS will be able to register their children in school without the documents normally required for enrollment, because their temporary housing arrangements will likely meet the definition of “homeless” in the federal McKinney-Vento Act. The definition of “homeless” in McKinney-Vento includes students who are temporarily staying with another family because they have lost their home due to a natural disaster. McKinney-Vento eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis. For more information about McKinney-Vento, see www.nysteachs.org.

However, if you currently have access to the following documents, please gather them before relocating to New York State – while they are not required if you are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act, having them may expedite your child’s enrollment and placement into NYS schools. Please keep in mind that enrollment procedures and requirements vary by district, provided they follow certain minimum requirements.

Documents Needed For Enrollment In New York State By Permanently Housed Students

To enroll in school, you usually need to show proof of age, proof of residency, and proof of



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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- o Documents issued by federal state or local agencies (e.g., local social service agency, f

