



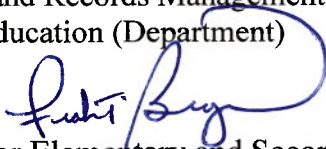
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 21, 2019

TO: Susan Minson
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

THROUGH: Kathy Axt
Information Collection Coordinator
Privacy, Information and Records Management Services
U.S. Department of Education (Department)

From: Frank T. Brogan 
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

Subject: Emergency Clearance Waiver for the Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations and Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students Programs

The *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019* (P.L. 116-20, hereafter referred to as the Disaster Supplemental) was signed into law on June 6, 2019. The law provides \$165 million for education-related disaster recovery activities for disasters in 2018 and 2019 for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared by the President, including prospective disasters in 2019 (covered disasters). Covered disasters include Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Tutu, and wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions occurring in the calendar year 2018 and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared.

The Disaster Supplemental allows the Secretary to determine the programs and amounts to be used to meet the needs of eligible applicants, from the same list of programs authorized in 2018 by the Bipartisan Budget Act, including Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations, Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students, Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth, Defraying the Costs of Educating Displaced Students, Emergency Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education, and Project School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV).

The Department of Education (the Department) plans to provide funding opportunities through four of the available funding programs from the Disaster Supplemental – the Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program (Restart), Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students (EIA), and Emergency Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education program (Emergency Assistance to IHEs) and Project SERV. The purpose of the Restart program is to help local educational agencies and non-public schools defray expenses related to the restart of operations

in, the reopening of, and the re-enrollment of students in elementary and secondary schools that serve an area affected by a covered disaster. The purpose of the EIA program is to provide funds to assist with the cost of educating public and non-public students displaced as a result of a covered disaster. The purpose of the Emergency Assistance to IHEs program is to provide emergency assistance to institutions of higher education and their students in areas directly affected by a covered disaster.

Timeline

Due to the severe impact (e.g., physical, social, emotional) of natural disasters in some States and school districts and the degree to which they have disrupted teaching and learning, we are requesting emergency clearance by August 30, 2019 for the Restart and EIA programs. [Note: Emergency clearance is not requested within this package for the Emergency Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education.]

We know that state educational agencies, local educational agencies, public charter schools and non-public schools in many of the affected areas have incurred, and continue to incur, considerable expenses as they work to reopen schools and, in some cases, are in urgent need of financial assistance. In addition, some of the natural disasters covered by the Disaster Supplemental occurred more than a year ago, and thus affected states, districts and schools have been waiting for needed education-related financial support for up to fourteen months. Expediting Federal assistance under P.L. 116-20 also would help ensure that affected districts and schools are up and running at full capacity at or near the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. For these reasons, approval of the Department's request for an Emergency Clearance is essential for allowing collection of the "time sensitive and critical" application data needed to facilitate timely education recovery grant awards and to avoid further public harm. If normal processing were followed, the Department may not make awards until early winter 2019, a full year and a half after some of the disasters and wholly inconsistent with the intent of Congress in providing emergency education-related relief for up to two-dozen eligible entities suffering from multiple natural disasters across the nation.

Thank you for the prompt consideration of my request. If you have additional questions, please contact Meredith Miller on (202) 401-8368.