

>>> Patricia I. Wright (Juanita Tabor) 04/28 4:58 PM >>>

This Superintendent's e-mail is to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded additional Emergency Impact Aid funds to Virginia for school divisions and nonpublic schools that have enrolled students who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Last month, school divisions received an initial payment of Emergency Impact Aid funds based on initial first quarter student counts. This week, a second payment to school divisions based on revised first quarter student counts and second and third quarter counts submitted by school divisions in February 2006 was processed. This payment reflects an increase in the amount of funding per student compared to the funding per student provided in the first payment. The second payment of Emergency Impact Aid funds to school divisions was made on April 28, 2006, by electronic funds transfer (EFT); these funds can be identified as revenue source code 84.938, project code 60528 on the corresponding EDI notice from the Virginia Department of Education.

The second Emergency Impact Aid payment to school divisions was based on \$1,000 per nondisabled student and \$1,250 per student with a disability for displaced students included in the first, second, and third quarter student counts submitted by school divisions in February 2006. The final payment per student will depend upon the total cost of the Emergency Impact Aid program based on final student counts and the available federal funding. Please note that the actual per student amount paid to school divisions in the second payment reflects a one percent reduction for state administrative costs. As a result, the per student amounts paid to school divisions and nonpublic schools was \$990 for nondisabled students and \$1,237.50 for students with a disability. The attached Excel file shows the calculation (in total and by quarter) of the second Emergency Impact Aid payment that was made to school divisions on April 28, 2006.

School divisions are reminded that program funds may be used by school divisions and nonpublic schools 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, acquiring curricular material and classroom supplies, and providing basic instructional services and support services for displaced students. While the activities and services must be related to serving displaced students, there is no requirement that they be provided only to those students. Funds paid for students with disabilities under this program may be used only to pay for special education and related services consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In addition, a school division may use up to two percent of its allocation for administration of the program. Recipients may also use these funds for pre-award costs, including the reimbursement of expenditures incurred prior to the receipt of a grant.

Payments to all accounts established for displaced students enrolled in nonpublic schools must be made within fourteen (14) days of receipt of funds by the school division. The Virginia Department of Education and local school divisions must obligate all Emergency Impact Aid funds received by July 31, 2006, and liquidate them within 90 days after that date, or they must be returned to the federal government.

Based on revised displaced student counts for the first through third quarter submitted to the U.S. Department of Education as of March 28, 2006, Virginia currently has a total of 1,307 first quarter displaced students reported as of September 30, 2005; 1,061 second quarter students reported as of December 1, 2005; and 909 third quarter students reported as of February 1, 2006.

Please note that the fourth quarter student count as of March 31, 2006, and final revisions to the first through third quarter counts, were due to Project Hope-VA by April 14, 2006, for submission to the U.S. Department of Education by the mandatory April 30, 2006, deadline. States may not submit any revisions to the student count data beyond the April 30, 2006, deadline. The final grant award based on the final student counts for the first through fourth quarters and final funding per student is expected to be announced by the U.S. Department of Education in May; payments based on this final award will be dispersed to school divisions following the department's receipt of those grant funds. This will be the final payment to school divisions for this program.

If you have questions about the division allocations of this grant funding, please contact Kent Dickey, budget director, at (804) 225-2025. Questions concerning disbursements and accounting procedures should be directed to Marie Williams, director of accounting, at (804) 225-2040. Questions about procedures for submitting student counts should be addressed to Patricia Popp, state coordinator for Project HOPE-VA at (757) 221-7776 or Cindy Cave, director for student services, at (804) 225-2818.