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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Manny Diaz, Jr.

DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Hurricane Milton Guidance

As Hurricane Milton approaches, supporting students, families and educators is our priority. On October 2, 2024, I sent a memo to provide guidance to districts affected by Hurricane Helene. This new memo now serves to give guidance to districts affected by Hurricane Milton.

Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order (EO) 24-215 on October 6, 2024, amending EO 24-214 and declaring a state of emergency for 51 counties because of the severe threat posed by Hurricane Milton. Multiple districts in Florida are expected to experience significant impacts from this new system.

Please see updated guidance below that will be helpful to districts in light of Hurricane Milton. School district personnel should direct questions to the contacts for each section listed below.

Information regarding enrollment for displaced students, supports for students with disabilities, and Purple Star School and District applications from the Hurricane Helene Guidance Memo sent October 2, 2024, is still applicable.

Survey 2 Reporting

The Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) General Instructions publication establishes the attendance window for reporting FTE student enrollment as the five days during survey week which is October 7, 2024, through October 11, 2024, and the six days prior to survey week that schools were in session. However, two alternative attendance windows are available to districts impacted by Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton. A school district that was closed for at least one day due to Hurricane Helene between September 27 and October 11 may use an alternative attendance window that is the 11 days that schools were in session immediately preceding Thursday, September 26, 2024. A school district that was closed for at least one day due to Hurricane Milton between October 7 and October 11 may use an alternative attendance window

that is the 11 days that schools were in session immediately preceding Monday, October 7, 2024. A school district that was closed for both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton may use either attendance window. Charter schools must use the attendance window selected by the district in which they are located. Currently, the department does not anticipate waiving any instructional hours.

Contact: Shawna Reid
Executive Staff Director, Division of Technology and Innovation
Shawna.Reid@fldoe.org
850-245-9070

Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Meetings

IEP meetings initially scheduled during September 27-October 11, 2024, in which the district was closed for at least one day due to Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton, but rescheduled because of Hurricane Helene and/or Hurricane Milton at a later date and held within two weeks of reopening school, are valid through the October 2024 survey. Documentation must be maintained by the district explaining the reason(s) for the rescheduled meeting. IEP meetings must be rescheduled as soon as is practicable.

Districts with unique circumstances may contact the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services.

Contact: Alice Schmitges
Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Alice.Schmitges@fldoe.org
850-245-0903

Fall 2024 EOC/FAST Retake Assessment Window

Due to school closures, the Fall 2024 EOC and FAST Retake testing window has been extended to October 18.

Districts with unique circumstances may contact the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement.

Contact: Jenny Black
Director, Test Administration, Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment
Jenny.Black@fldoe.org
850-245-9470