

**Hurricane Issues
Senate Education Committee
Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

2008 Hurricane Season

- Three hurricanes in 2008 Season: Dolly, Gustav, and Ike
- **Dolly** (Category 1) – Lower Rio Grande Valley – Landfall July 23, 2008
- **Gustav** (Category 2) – Beaumont-Port Arthur Area – Landfall September 1, 2008
- **Ike** (Category 2) – Galveston/Houston to Beaumont/Port Arthur – Landfall September 12-13, 2008

Number of Displaced Students (Hurricane Ike ONLY)

(NOTE: Displaced students may be (1) displaced to another campus within the same district or (2) displaced to another district)

- **High Count:** 7892 as of November 19, 2008
- **Current Count:** 6862 as of January 21, 2009

Hurricane-Related Waivers Issued

(NOTE: May 20, 2009 - Deadline for Submission of Missed-Instructional Day and Low-Attendance Waiver Applications)

- **Missed-Instructional Day Waivers** – 1402 total days for Hurricane Ike; 74 total days for Hurricane Gustav; and 11 total days for Hurricane Dolly. 298 districts impacted. Maximum of 10 days waived except for Bridge City ISD (14.5), Sabine Pass ISD (15), Galveston ISD (12.5), and Odyssey Academy (14). *Bridge City ISD and Sabine Pass ISD received 2 additional missed-instructional day waivers due to Hurricane Gustav.*
- **Low-Attendance Waivers** – 40 low-attendance waivers granted to 40 districts.

School Buses Dispatched during Hurricane Ike

(NOTE: FEMA reimbursement pending)

- **140 School Buses** volunteered by school districts from around the state
- **50 School Buses** under contract to the Governor's Office from Dallas County Schools

Emergency Hurricane/School Aid

(NOTE: Rider 31 Transfer Authority)

- \$1.0 million each to ESC Regions 4 and 5
- \$0.5 million each to ESC Regions 6 and 7 (NOTE: Region 7 districts requested \$250,000; unexpended balance transferred to ESC Region 4)

Texas Education Agency Response to Hurricane Ike

- **Week of September 8, 2008** – TEA Staff participate with other state agencies at the State Operations Center (SOC) operated by the Governors Department of Emergency Management
- **09.09.2008** - TEA calls on school districts throughout Texas to send school buses to aid with emergency evacuations
- **By COB 09.14.2008** - Texas School Districts respond with 190 buses sent to San Antonio staging area
- **09.12-13.2008** – Hurricane Ike strikes Galveston Island veering Northeast into East Texas
- **09.12.2008** – Commissioner advises all districts to be prepared to accept displaced students
- **09.12.2008** – Commissioner advises LBB and Governor’s Office that he is reserving \$2.0 million from FSP funds for Education Service Centers (ESC) Regions 4 and 5 “for immediate disaster assistance to school districts” and charter schools in those regions
- **09.16.2008** – Commissioner issues Enrollment and Services for Students from Hurricane Disaster Areas letter providing instructions to districts related to evacuated (See: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/taa/comm091608.html>)
- **09.19.2008** – TEA sends grant notices to ESC Regions 4 and 5 of \$1.0 million each for immediate short-term recovery and the re-opening of schools
- **Beginning 09.22.2008** – Commissioner issues several letters to extend deadlines for applications and data submission (See various correspondence: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/hurricane/corr.html>)
- **09.23.2008** – Commissioner advises LBB and Governor’s Office that he is reserving \$1.0 million from FSP for ESC Regions 6 and 7 for disaster assistance to school districts and charter schools in those regions
- **09.24.2008** – TEA sends grant notices to ESC Regions 6 and 7 of \$500,000 each for immediate short-term recovery and the re-opening of schools
- **09.30.2008** – Commissioner grants Missed Instructional Day Waivers for up to 10 days to districts impacted by Hurricane Ike. This is in addition to 2 days granted to districts in the same area of the state impacted by Hurricane Gustav
- **October 2008 to Present** – TEA staff processing school districts and charter waiver applications for Missed Instructional Days, Low Attendance Days, School Bus Evacuation Training, Class-Size, etc.