FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
fldoe.org

State Board of Education

Ryan Petty, *Chair*
MaryLynn Magar, *Vice Chair*
Members
Grazie P. Christie
Layla Collins
Daniel P. Foganholi, Sr.
Erika Fritz-Ochs
Luis Fuste

Henry Mack, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Henry Mack

DATE: October 13, 2026

SUBJECT: **Hurricane Isaias Guidance**

Thank you for supporting students, families, and educators during this time, especially for the districts impacted by Hurricane Isaias. This memo provides guidance regarding Hurricane Isaias; please let us know if you need additional information.

Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order (EO) 26-212 on Tuesday, October 10, 2026, amending EO 26-202, as amended by EO 26-211, which declared a state of emergency for 30 counties because of the severe threat posed by Hurricane Isaias. Multiple school districts in Florida have experienced significant impacts from this system.

The Florida Department of Education (department) has compiled the following guidance based on questions shared by school districts related to Hurricane Isaias. School district personnel should direct questions to the department contacts listed below for each section.

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 5, 2026, through October 9, 2026, and the six days prior to survey week that schools were in session. However, an alternative attendance window is available to school districts impacted by the hurricane. Each school district that was closed for at least one day due to Hurricane Isaias between October 5 and October 9 may use an alternative attendance window. The alternative attendance window is the 11 days that schools were in session immediately preceding Monday, October 5, 2026. 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. The survey due date has been extended to Tuesday, October 20. Please note that date certain will not change due to closures, as it is based on enrollment and not on days in session.

Contact: Shawna Reid
Executive Staff Director, Data Systems
Shawna.Reid@fldoe.org
850-245-9070

Supports for Students with Disabilities

Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Meetings

IEP meetings initially scheduled for October 6-9, 2026, in which the district was closed for at least one day due to Hurricane Isaias but rescheduled because of Hurricane Isaias and held within two weeks of reopening school, are valid through the October 2026 survey. Documentation must be maintained by the district explaining the reason(s) for the rescheduled meetings. IEP meetings must be rescheduled as soon as practicable.

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

Transfer of Students with Disabilities

To the extent possible, districts should follow existing procedures regarding the transfer of students according to Rule 6A-6.0334, Florida Administrative Code. If records are not available, accept and document the parent/guardian's statement that the student is a student with a disability. Based on the information available, determine the most appropriate placement and program, obtain parental consent for services, develop an IEP, provide services as soon as possible, and continue to request the records. Monitor the student's progress, proceed with consent for initial evaluations and eligibility procedures, and provide the parent with procedural safeguards.

Contact: Patricia Bodiford
Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Patricia.Bodiford@fldoe.org
850-245-0475

Enrollment for Displaced Students

For questions related to student enrollment, immunizations, age verification, or transcripts, please contact the Office of Student Services.

Contact: Dr. Andrew Weatherill
Senior Director, Student Services
Andrew.Weatherill@fldoe.org
850-245-7849

CHM