



TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.
Commissioner

August 1, 2006

Dr. Henry L. Johnson,
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-6400

Dear Assistant Secretary Johnson:

In response to the requirement of the May 23, 2006, agreement between Texas and the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) pertaining to students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and for districts and campuses directly impacted by Hurricane Rita, Texas provides the following analysis of school districts and campuses evaluated on the AYP participation measure for the Katrina/Rita displaced student group.

Based on the 2006 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) preliminary results, Texas did not identify any school district or campus that failed to meet AYP solely due to the Katrina/Rita displaced student group. However, two campuses failed to meet AYP participation standards due to the Katrina/Rita displaced student group and also failed to meet either performance or participation standards for another student group. These two campuses, listed below, are both in Houston Independent School District (ISD).

Revere Middle School (101912060)
Fondren Middle School (101912072)

As you know, both hurricanes had a significant impact on Houston ISD. The district made tremendous efforts this past school year to respond to the combined effects of both hurricanes. Based on the 2005-06 fourth quarter counts submitted for the Emergency Impact Aid Grants, Houston ISD enrolled more than 5,200 students who were displaced due to Hurricane Katrina, about 3% of the 209,879 students enrolled Houston ISD in 2005-06. In addition, residents of Houston and surrounding areas in Harris County were directly impacted by Hurricane Rita and qualified for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The following summary outlines the specific AYP and School Improvement Provision (SIP) status for each campus and provides the requested action from the USDE. In addition, the draft 2006 preliminary AYP data tables are attached for both campuses. Each of the data tables includes the reported participation rate and performance achievement results for the Katrina/Rita displaced student group. This information will be reported on the 2006 AYP data tables for the state and for all school districts and campuses.

Revere Middle School

Summary of Results: The preliminary 2006 AYP participation rate for the Revere Middle School Katrina/Rita displaced student group is 90% in reading/English language arts (ELA) and 91% in mathematics, both below the AYP standard of 95%. The campus missed the

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AYP performance measure in both reading/ELA and mathematics due to performance of the special education student group.

The participation rates for Revere Middle School can be found on page 2 of the 2006 preliminary AYP data table. The 90% participation rate in reading/ELA is based on 193 participants out of the 214 total displaced students. The 91% participation rate in mathematics is based on 195 participants out of the 214 total displaced students. The campus participation rates for all other students in Revere Middle School range from 97% to 99% in both subject areas for each student group evaluated. Compared to all other students assessed in reading/ELA on this campus, 13 students were counted as absent during testing versus 21 students in the displaced student group. Mathematics assessment results are similar, in that 13 students on the campus were counted as absent compared to 19 in the displaced student group. These data are consistent with districts statements that the displaced students tended to be more mobile and more transient across district boundaries as a result of their families' transition to establishing new or temporary lives in Texas or eventually attempting to return to Louisiana.

2005-06 AYP status and 2006-07 SIP status: Revere Middle School is a Title I campus and will not be subject to SIP requirements in the 2006-07 school year since they met AYP in both 2004 and 2005. The campus will miss AYP in 2005-06 due to the reading/ELA and mathematics performance results of the special education student group. In addition, both the reading/ELA and mathematics participation rates of the Katrina/Rita displaced student group did not meet the AYP standard of 95%.

Requested Action: While the Katrina/Rita student group does not alter the 2006 AYP status or the 2006-07 SIP status, given the circumstances described above, the agency requests that this school receive a Missed AYP status based on the reading/ELA and mathematics performance of the special education student group only and that the campus is not evaluated on the participation of the Katrina/Rita student group in reading/ELA and mathematics.

Fondren Middle School

Summary of Results: The preliminary 2006 AYP participation rate for the Fondren Middle School Katrina/Rita displaced student group is 90% in both reading/ELA and mathematics. The campus missed the AYP mathematics performance measure due to the performance of the special education student group. In 2005, the campus missed AYP due to reading performance of the special education student group.

The participation rates of 90% for Fondren Middle School are based on 138 participants out of the 154 total displaced students in both reading/ELA and mathematics. The campus participation rates for all other students in Fondren Middle School are 99% for each student group evaluated in both subject areas. As with Revere Middle School, compared to all other students assessed in reading, there were 8 students in the all students group counted as absent during testing versus 16 students in the displaced student group.

2005-06 AYP status and 2006-07 SIP status: Fondren Middle School is a Title I campus, missed AYP for the first time in 2005 and is therefore subject to SIP requirements in the 2006-07 school year. The campus will miss AYP in 2005-06 due to mathematics performance results for special education students. In addition, the reading/ELA and mathematics participation rates of the Katrina/Rita displaced student group did not meet the AYP participation standard of 95%.

Requested Action: Based on the failure of the Katrina/Rita student group to meet the AYP participation standard, the campus will have missed AYP for two consecutive years for the same measure (2005 – special education student group reading/ELA performance and 2006-

Katrina/Rita student group reading/ELA participation) and will be subject to SIP requirements in the 2006-07 school year. Given the circumstances described above, the agency requests that this school receive a Missed AYP status based on the mathematics performance of the special education student group only, that the campus is not evaluated on the participation of the Katrina/Rita student group in reading/ELA and is therefore not required to implement Stage 1 SIP requirements in 2006-07.

Both campuses will receive an *Academically Acceptable* rating in the Texas state accountability system in 2006.

As specified in the May 23 agreement, a decision on these two campuses is required by Tuesday, August 8, 2006, in order to incorporate their 2006 AYP status and 2006-07 SIP status in the AYP reporting system and complete the final data verification prior to the scheduled release to school districts on Tuesday, August 15. We realize that the department has a significant workload at this time, but a decision on these two schools is needed at your earliest convenience.

If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner for Accountability and Data Quality, by telephone at 512-463-9701 or by e-mail at criss.cloudt@tea.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,



Shirley J. Neeley
Commissioner of Education

Attachment

Enclosure: Texas AYP Data Tables

cc: Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner for Accountability and Data Quality
Susan Barnes, Associate Commissioner for Standards and Programs
Gene Lenz, Deputy Associate Commissioner for Special Programs, Monitoring, and Interventions
Cory Green, Director, NCLB Program Coordination
Shannon Housson, Director, Performance Reporting Division
Dr. Abelardo Saavedra, Superintendent, Houston Independent School District