

Appendix K – Hurricane Ike

When Hurricane Ike made landfall near Galveston on September 13, 2008, its direct impact was felt by a large number of Texas school districts and charters which were forced to suspend classes, some for an extended period of time.

That same day, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared 29 Texas counties and 14 Louisiana parishes as disaster areas that qualify for both individual and public assistance. The disaster areas included all counties in Education Service Center (ESC) regions 4 and 5; more than half the counties in ESC regions 6 and 7; and only Matagorda County in region 3.

On September 25, the commissioner informed superintendents that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) had declared Hurricane Ike a state education-related crisis, activating Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) Crisis Code reporting for students displaced by the hurricane for the 2008-09 data submissions. In this case, the PEIMS Crisis Code was used for students who were enrolled in one of the disaster counties or parishes before September 9, and were enrolled on the PEIMS snapshot date in another Texas public school district or in a different campus in the same district because of Hurricane Ike.

EXCLUDING DATA FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS

In 2009, special processing of assessment results—evaluated under both standard and alternative education accountability (AEA) procedures—will be employed due to the adverse effects districts and campuses experienced due to Hurricane Ike.

Performance:

TAKS and TAKS (Accommodated) – Performance results of all students displaced due to Hurricane Ike will be removed from assessment indicators before determining 2009 accountability ratings. The PEIMS Crisis Code from the fall 2008 student enrollment record will be used to identify displaced students. Use of the code will rely on matching student identifying information from the test answer document with the PEIMS record. Test results and TPM values for matched students with PEIMS Crisis Code values of ‘01’ or ‘02’ will be excluded from the accountability results. PEIMS Crisis Code values and their meanings are shown in the table below.

PEIMS Crisis Code Values

PEIMS Crisis Code Value	Meaning
01	Indicates that a student was enrolled in a Texas school before September 9, 2008, in a Texas county declared a disaster area because of Hurricane Ike, and the student enrolled in another Texas public school district, or moved from a Hurricane Ike impacted campus to a non-impacted campus during the 2008-09 school year.
02	Indicates that a student came to Texas after September 9, 2008, from a Louisiana parish declared a disaster area because of Hurricane Ike, and the student enrolled in a Texas public school district during the 2008-09 school year.

Participation:

Rates of participation in the state assessment program are not evaluated for state accountability ratings, but participation rates are reported on the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) and other annual reports. In the participation section of the 2008-09 AEIS reports, students identified with PEIMS Crisis Code values of '01' or '02' will be listed on a separate row within the categories of "Tested By Acct Status" and "Not-Tested" students. In addition, for a complete picture of participation, the displaced students who were tested will be distributed among all test-takers by test type (*e.g.* TAKS, TAKS (Accommodated), TAKS-M, and TAKS-Alt).

HURRICANE IKE PROVISION

A Hurricane Ike Provision will be implemented that is similar to the Hurricane Rita Provision used for 2006 accountability. Districts and campuses directly affected by Hurricane Ike will be eligible for special evaluation if (a) they are located in one of the 29 Texas counties designated by FEMA as a disaster area due to Hurricane Ike and (b) they were closed for ten or more instructional days between September 10, 2008, and late October 2008. Unlike the Rita Provision, the Ike Provision may apply to only some of the campuses within a district because separate closing and reopening dates were collected for districts and campuses. However, if a district is identified under this provision, all of its campuses are also identified.

Identifying Hurricane Ike Affected Districts:

TEA contacted ESC directors in regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 in late January 2009 to confirm the exact closing and reopening dates for each district and campus. A final list of districts eligible for special evaluation in 2009 under the Hurricane Ike Provision will be posted to the agency website in May.

Treatment:

Under the Hurricane Ike Provision, accountability ratings will be generated for eligible districts and campuses using available data. If the 2009 rating is either *Academically Unacceptable* or lower than the rating received in 2008 and is based on 2008-09 assessment results, TEA will issue a rating of *Not Rated: Other* on July 31. For these campuses and districts, a message will be included on the data table stating that the Hurricane Ike Provision was used. Note that unlike the Rita Provision, the application of the Ike Provision will be restricted to ratings governed by the TAKS indicator only. Ratings for 2009 determined by either the dropout or completion rates are not eligible for this provision.

Districts may appeal the *Not Rated: Other* label and request the assignment of the system-generated rating if they wish. For example, using the hurricane provision, a campus in an identified district rated *Exemplary* in 2008 with a system-generated rating of *Recognized* in 2009 would be labeled *Not Rated: Other*. The district may appeal to have the rating changed to *Recognized*.

Any hurricane-affected district/campus not identified as eligible for this provision may appeal under the regular appeals process. See *Chapter 15 – Appealing the Ratings*.

For purposes of counting consecutive years of ratings, 2008 and 2010 will be considered consecutive for districts and campuses receiving a *Not Rated: Other* label in 2009 due to hurricane-related issues.