



Legal Services
of
New Jersey

Advice For Displaced Students



Toll Free 888-222-5765
www.lsnjlawhotline.org

Advice for NJ students who have been displaced by Superstorm Sandy

Superstorm Sandy has displaced many families from their homes and communities. If you are a parent of a school aged child and had to leave your apartment or home because of the effects of Sandy, here are some things you should know about your child and their schooling.

Displaced students are entitled to special school rights

Students who were displaced by Hurricane SANDY and who do not have fixed, regular and adequate housing are entitled to:

- Continue to attend school in their original school even if you are living in another school district;
- Attend school in the school district where you are temporarily living without submitting the proof of residency documents typically needed to register a child in school;
- Transportation services to and from their school and where you are temporarily living-even if your child is attending their original school while you are living in another school district;
- Presumptive eligibility for free school lunch program;
- Counseling services, if needed;
- Continued special education, 504, bilingual education and gift and talented services

For more information on the rights of displaced students:

<http://www.lsnjlaw.org/School-Learning/Homeless-Students/Pages/default.aspx#>

If your child is a special education student:

- Your child is entitled to receive a similar special education program and services as were in place before the storm, even if they are attending school in a different school district;
- If you believe your child's needs may have changed due to the emotional and physical trauma they have experienced, you should request a meeting with the IEP team to address your concerns and discuss, what if any, changes to your child's IEP should be made and whether they are in need of a reevaluation.

For more information on the rights of special education students:

<http://www.lsnjlaw.org/School-Learning/Special-Education/Pages/default.aspx>

To ensure your child is properly identified as a McKinney-Vento eligible student, enrolled and attending school and receiving any and all needed services:

- Contact your school district's homeless liaison, for a list go to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/homeless/liaison.htm>
- Contact your county's superintendent, for a list go to <http://www.state.nj.us/education/counties/>
- Contact the New Jersey Department of Education's hotline for families displaced by Sandy at (609) 292-2070

The Legal Services of New Jersey Hurricane Sandy Legal Assistance Hotline is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You may also apply for Legal Services online at www.lsnjlawhotline.org.
You will receive a response within 2 business days.

