

## **Haiti Relief**

### Frequently Asked Questions Part II

Q: Who are the Haitian students that have enrolled thus far?

A: *Most of the Haitian students that have arrived in our schools are either United States citizens (born in the USA) that were living in Haiti, or those that have relatives living in Broward County. In both instances, these children (some of them with parents, some without) were expedited to enter the country.*

Q: Do we anticipate a greater influx of students?

A: *Yes, more children will be arriving. The airport in Port-Au-Prince has been re-opened and more airlines are operating. In addition, agencies are preparing to accept the children who were in orphanages or who were orphaned during the disaster.*

Q: Are all the Haitian students entering our schools because of the disaster homeless?

A: *No, although most of them do meet the Federal definition for Homeless Students under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, not all of them do. For example, if a student comes to live with a parent who has custodial rights and lives independently in his own home or apartment, then the student would not be considered homeless. If the child or child and parent come to live with another family member or friend out of economic necessity or similar reason, then they would be considered homeless.*

Q: Which students require a School Entry Health Exam?

A: *Like all children entering schools in Florida, children who arrive due to the earthquake in Haiti will have a School Entry Health Exam. The Florida Department of Health School Entry Health Exam form includes guidelines regarding Tuberculosis (TB) risk factors and symptoms. In accordance with these guidelines, children from Haiti who are referred to us for the school physical and immunization process, will be screened for TB and provided with the appropriate evaluation and follow up. The Broward County Health Department, along with other community providers, is scheduling special clinics to make services immediately available.*

Q: Should a student be allowed to register at a magnet school, school of choice or any other school out of their boundary?

A: *The committee's recommendation was to follow and honor the Hardship process, as it currently exists. This means that the student must enroll in the boundary school and may request a hardship transfer, if needed. In the event the student wants to enroll in a magnet program, the student will have to meet the magnet criteria and, if the magnet program has open seats, families may apply to that magnet school using the current policy in place. This recommendation was made with the understanding that the Hardship Committee has the ability to meet often and all day, if needed, to address the demand.*

Q: Has the State DOE provided any information regarding the impact on graduation for the students who are not being assessed with the FCAT?

A: *Graduation requirements based on testing have not been waived for these students. Meaning, seniors without a concordant score need FCAT to graduate and juniors will still be held to the three attempts if they are still here next year.*

Q: Can guardians/parents choose to have the FCAT administered to the student?

A: *Yes, the parent of an exempt student can request that their child be assessed with FCAT. This should be noted on the ELLSEP folder via an ELL committee.*

Q: If the student does not qualify for ESOL services, is he/she still eligible for exemption from the FCAT?

A: *The State did not single out ELLs, but rather students who have immigrated or have been evacuated from Haiti. Therefore, the students would be exempt regardless of ELL status.*

Q: How should schools enter students without a birth date?

A: *Schools will have to make up a birth date for TERMS. The district suggests using January 1st and whatever year (01-01-YEAR) makes sense. Later ETS can query students with an assignment code 88 and a January 1st birth date as a reminder to update this field with the correct date if it ever becomes known.*

Q: If the students are eligible for ESOL services, whom should we contact for English Language Learner Student Education Plan folders?

A: *Please submit requests for reasonable quantities to Linda Medvin (linda.medvin@browardschools.com).*

Q: Who is responsible for purchasing the IPT Booklets for assessing possible ELLs for entry into the program?

A: *It has been the school's responsibility to purchase the IPT Booklets directly from Ballard & Tighe (1-800-321-4332).*