

Haiti Relief
Frequently Asked Questions
Part III

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. At this point, we have been advised that no orphans will be sent out of Haiti.

Q: What is the district's position on release time to go to Haiti to assist in relief efforts?

A: The district does not have a position. It cannot manage an employee's time. Vacation and personal time must be handled in the usual manner. Temporary Duty Assignments (TDAs) are for School Board business only. There is no option for paid release time.

Q: What is the procedure, if our school/site is in need of Creole speaking personnel such as counselors, social workers, and/or psychologists?

A: Contact the Student Services Coordinator in your Area Office with your requests and inquiries. Requests for Guidance Counselors should go to the District Guidance office. For other requests, use the District Resources - Contact List document posted on the Haitian Relief CAB Conference. Specific departments and phone numbers are listed.

Q: When will the State confirm the waiver for the FCAT participation rate? Smaller schools will be negatively impacted if the students are not tested.

A: At this time we do not have a timeline from the U.S. Department of Education to consider the State's request of granting a waiver for participation. Districts will be notified ASAP when there is a response from the federal government.

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: What is the status of middle school promotion and course recovery?

A: Only students that transfer in after the first day of 8th grade fall into this category. Everyone else is responsible for meeting all promotion criteria.

Policy 6000.1: Transfer Students: *Students who enter a Broward County public school after the first day of eighth grade from out-of-state or from a foreign country shall not be required to spend additional time in a Broward County public school in order to meet the middle school course requirements if the student has met all requirements of the school district, state, or country from which he or she is transferring. Such students who are not proficient in English should receive immediate and intensive instruction in English language acquisition.*

All 8th grade students, regardless of the date of entry into a Broward County middle school are required to complete an electronic personal education plan (ePEP) prior to promotion to 9th grade (FS 1003.4156. (1) 5).

Transfer students entering on or prior to the first day of the second semester of 8th grade will also be required to complete the Career and Education Planning course. Students entering after the first day of the second semester of 8th grade will be required to enroll in a Career and Education Planning course, but are not beholden to completion of all modules in the curriculum.

Student transcripts will be evaluated when they are received from the sending institution. Foreign transcripts will be evaluated using the database found on the guidance website (previously posted on the Haitian Relief CAB Conference). All transcripts must be evaluated in a timely manner so that students are properly placed in the most appropriate classes. A student will not be required to recover courses if they were promoted in their home state or country according to the guidelines of that educational system.

All students that enter school at any point in eighth grade must complete and ePEP to be promoted to ninth grade. There are no exceptions, any student entering prior to, or on the first day of, the second semester of eighth grade must enroll in and complete a career course to meet promotion criteria. Any student entering on or after the second day of the second semester must be enrolled in a career course, but may not have the opportunity to complete all modules.

Q: Many of the students and families speak French. How can district employees become familiar with French in order to communicate with students and families displaced by the earthquake?

A: To help address the critical need with respect to the Haitian emergency, Rosetta Stone will provide, at no charge, 50 Web Licenses for a 90-day period. Specifics regarding start date and training/orientation will be finalized and posted on the Haitian Relief CAB Conference.

Q: Will students who are able to graduate from a Broward County high school this year be eligible for Bright Futures?

A: For Bright Futures, if the student does not apply **during their senior year AND before graduation**, they will not be considered eligible for the scholarship. The post secondary institution does not determine eligibility. It is managed by FLDOE, Office of Student Financial Assistance, and the student receives an eligibility letter. The student then notifies FLDOE of the school they are going to and the money is then allocated to that institution. It is critical that anyone who believes they may be eligible (citizens and legal residents which may apply to displaced students from the earthquake) apply **BEFORE** they graduate. Applications are done on line but the guidance department at their high school can assist. In addition, any student who believes they are or soon will be eligible (scores, classes and grades) and are not legal residents can maintain their eligibility for 3 years. If they become legal residents during those 3 years, they can use the Bright Futures when they enroll.