



Education Reformers Establish Plan To Get Children Of Hurricane Katrina Survivors Back In School

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[Link to document](#)

Education Providers Stand at the Ready

The Center for Education Reform (CER) and National Council of Education Providers (NCEP) presented a plan of action to the United States Department of Education last week to provide immediate education assistance for the child survivors of hurricane Katrina to get them back in schools. Since that time charter schools, virtual school and supplemental service providers have mobilized. "We applaud the response of school districts nationwide in opening their doors to Hurricane survivors," said NCEP chairman Jon Hage. "The education reform community is uniquely positioned to deliver services to survivors where they are, as well as to add space to existing charter schools or via libraries, emergency centers and the like." Jim Geiser of the Louisiana Charter School Association, for example, notes that as many as 20,000 children from New Orleans have made their way to Baton Rouge. His school and others like it have offered to take in additional children and to put up emergency facilities to begin delivering educational services immediately. **CER AND NCEP'S IMMEDIATE ACTION PLAN TO THE DOE**

INCLUDES:

- Immediate delivery of education facilities in emergency sites such as the Astrodome, the Charlotte Coliseum and other areas where individuals will be temporarily housed.
- The establishment a toll free number, the **Children's Emergency School Hotline at 1-800-291-7809**, to direct families to schools in surrounding states that can immediately welcome their children.
- The set-up of emergency portable facilities to assist charter and other public schools to absorb the overflow of children.
- Immediately open additional charter school campuses in surrounding areas using existing facilities to meet the increasing need.
- The establishment of a "national virtual charter school" to serve evacuees wherever they are. Once students have access to computers and connectivity – borrowed, donated or shared – companies are standing by to wave state restriction and log these students on.

"The people in the Gulf Coast are suffering beyond what any of us can comprehend. As emergency officials work to provide the survivors with the necessities of food and water, rest assured that we are working hard on this end and once people can look up and catch their breath, the education needs of their children will be immediately met," said Jeanne Allen, president of CER. "It's imperative that these kids get back into the classroom or have immediate educational access to return to some sort of normalcy and security in their lives." Families should contact the **Children's Emergency School Hotline at 1-800-291-7809** to find schools that are available to meet the needs of their kids. For more information, see also:

- [Special Edition Newswire, September 6, 2005.](#)
- [Special Edition Newswire, September 8, 2005.](#)
- [Recommendations to Aid Katrina Victims Through Charter Schools.](#)

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The Center for Education Reform (CER) creates opportunities for and challenges obstacles to better education for America's communities. Founded in 1993, CER combines education policy with grassroots advocacy to foster positive and bold education reforms. For more information, contact CER at (202) 822-9000 or [send us email](#). The National Council of Education Providers was founded as a new association in early 2004 to actively work to promote quality educational options in the communities they serve. NCEP is currently comprised of the eight largest education providers of schooling, which operate 267 schools in 17 states and the District of Columbia. NCEP contributes more than \$1 billion to the economy annually. For more information, contact NCEP at (202) 822-5076 or visit www.educationproviders.org for additional member information.

