

Campus & Central Office Frequently Asked Questions – Return from Harvey

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

(UPDATED 9/5/17- 4:00 PM)

1. When will campuses be given updates about inaccessible facilities?

Nearly 16 of our campuses were impacted by flooding throughout surrounding neighborhoods this past week. Two campuses, Creech Elementary and Beck Junior High, saw more extensive damage than others. Below are updates on Creech, Bear Creek and Beck.

Creech Elementary- On September 2, the county granted the district access to Creech Elementary and Beck Junior High for our operations crews to begin building assessments that will include air quality/mold testing and a number of other safety reviews. Still, the conditions near and around Creech Elementary have prevented our crews from thoroughly conducting a full assessment of the building. We expect to learn more by the end of this week. Nevertheless, knowing that it will take time for this building to be assessed and restored, we are working on a plan for the relocation of students and staff, and will notify families of the alternate campus site by the end of the day on Wednesday, September 6.

Bear Creek Elementary- Bear Creek Elementary has been accessed by operations crews and it has been determined that there was only minor water intrusion within the building. Throughout this week, operations crews will be testing all mechanical and electrical systems to ensure a safe return for students and staff. It is very likely that the building evaluation and the repair of the campus structures damaged by the storm will be completed by the end of this week. It is anticipated that Bear Creek Elementary will be ready for the return of students and staff on Monday, September 11.

Beck Junior High- Beck JH has now been accessed by operations crews, and is currently being evaluated and remediated for damage occurring as a result of water intrusion from the building's roof, skylights and a construction site within the building. This week, operations crews will be testing all mechanical and electrical systems, as well as conducting air quality/mold testing throughout the entire learning environment. We believe that it is now very likely that the building evaluation and the repair of structures damaged by the storm at Beck JH will be completed by the end of this week. Should mechanical, electrical systems, and air quality/mold testing provide for the safe return of students, it is anticipated that Beck JH will be ready to reopen on Monday, September 11.

The remaining 13 schools have been evaluated and have cleared all safety tests. Those schools will be ready to reopen on September 6 for staff and September 11 for students.

2. Where will children go to school if they are displaced to hotels and in other school zones or school districts?

If a family has been displaced, their student may receive assistance from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Students will receive free breakfast and lunch. This federal law allows families and students living in homeless situations to remain at the school of origin or to enroll in the school district where the student is temporarily staying.

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In order to be considered for this program, parents/guardians must complete the [Student Residency Questionnaire](#) and email it to SRQ@katyisd.org. Additional information can be found at our Federal Programs website.

3. What can staff members who do not have childcare available do about coming to work on September 6-8? Also, is there an attire for Sept 6-8 and the remainder of the month?

Campus staff may bring their children to their work location from September 6-8 as we prepare for the reopening of schools.

The first floor of the ESC is currently considered a construction zone. Nearly 200 maintenance and operations workers are in and out of the building daily repairing facility structures. Due to the potentially unsafe conditions at the ESC and the limited space that will be available to staff who have been relocated to the LMC, it is strongly encouraged that ESC staff secure childcare accommodations for their children. However, we recognize that because of the circumstances this may not be possible for some employees. If this is the case, staff who bring their children to work at the ESC Sept 6-8 must keep a close eye on them and monitor their activities for their safety in both the LMC and the ESC.

Due to circumstances facing many of our staff members and construction occurring across our district, staff attire for September 6-8, and the remainder of the month is jeans and/or business casual.

4. Will lunch and breakfast for students impacted by the storm be free of cost?

From Tuesday, Sept 5 through Friday, Sept 8, Katy Junior High, Exley Elementary and Schmalz Elementary will provide **breakfast and lunch free of cost to all Katy ISD Pre-K through 12th grade students** that were impacted or displaced by Tropical Storm Harvey. Breakfast at the selected campuses will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., while lunch will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Because of the devastating effects of the storm within our community, the District will be offering all students free standard school breakfast and lunch trays for the remainder of September. Also, if a family has been displaced as a result of Hurricane Harvey, their students may receive assistance from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act which provides free breakfast and lunch.

5. What will the agenda be for campus staff for the three days this week?

Wednesday, Sept 6 – The morning will be spent as a time to pull the staff together. In the afternoon, staff will receive information regarding best practices when working with students upon their return. Counseling is an important part for staff, students, and community. Information was shared with principals regarding both morning and afternoon activities for that day.

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Thursday, Sept 7 – This is designated as a teacher workday to get ready for students arriving on September 11. Workday activities include meeting in PLCs, lesson planning, collaborating with teams and instructional coaches, analyzing data, and preparing for students.

Friday, Sept 8 - We would like to see this as a service day for staff to offer community outreach to our families and other employees who have been impacted by the storm. Schools can also reach out to other campuses who have been impacted and help both their teachers and community.

6. If staff cannot come into work this week, do they enter their absence in AESOP/Kronos as personal illness or personal business?

If staff cannot return to work because they are dealing with circumstances beyond their control due to Tropical Storm Harvey, they need to enter their absence in Aesop and use the following code “HurrFloodDisplace.” By selecting this code, we can account for employee absenteeism. It has been specifically designed to not request a sub in your absence (if your position requires a sub). Please know that by selecting this code, it will not count against an employee’s personal or sick leave days. If you cannot access Aesop/Kronos, report your absence to your supervisor and the absence will be entered for you. Any employee with extenuating circumstances related to Tropical Storm Harvey will need to contact his/her supervisor for approval for using the “HurrFloodDisplace” code after Sept 8.

7. Do long-term subs return to work on Wednesday, Sept. 6 or with the staff on Monday, Sept. 11? Can long-term substitutes be paid?

If an individual is CURRENTLY employed as a long-term sub on a campus they are to report to the school on September 6. Other substitutes return on September 11. Unfortunately, both policy and law do not allow us to pay substitutes when they are not working.

8. Will staff members be able to leave for appointments they have scheduled this week pertaining to the flooding of their homes?

Administration would support that need. The campus principal and/or department head has discretion to meet the needs of their staff.

9. What about Progress Report 1, grading periods, and the school calendar?

Progress Report 1 will be eliminated. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner has granted a waiver for up to 10 instructional days. We do not plan on adding any additional days to the school calendar for the days missed and time allotted for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break will not be impacted. We will not be making any adjustments to the established grading periods. More information will be shared with principals regarding the number of grades required for the first grading period.

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10. What is happening with sports and other activities (schedules, UIL implications, practices, games)?

All school activities, extra-curricular and co-curricular, will resume schedules on September 11. Athletics and Fine Arts are receiving information directly from Debbie Decker, Executive Director for Athletics and Michael Ouellette, Executive Director for Fine Arts, regarding schedules and makeup games. Beginning September 6 there will be voluntary workouts for athletic programs that are currently in season as well as Fine Arts. The UIL has provided districts approval to hold practices and scrimmages leading up to each district's start date.

11. What happens with curriculum?

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction is working with department chairs and Instructional Coaches to revise the curriculum scope and sequences. These will be shared through the department chairs and Instructional Coaches.

12. Do we have to make up the days the district was closed due to the storm?

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner has granted a waiver for up to 10 instructional days for Houston area schools directly impacted by Tropical Storm Harvey. While school districts are required to apply for the waiver, it is very likely that our application will be approved. We do not plan to add any additional days to the current school calendar for the days missed by students as a result of Tropical Storm Harvey. Thus, time allotted for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break will not be impacted.

13. Any guidance on when students can be on campus? For example, could we voluntarily make our library accessible to students who wanted to come to campus for a few hours?

We are not having students come to campus at this time.

14. Are we receiving timeline extensions for Special Education/504 testing, transfer periods, ARD/504 meetings, etc?

Diagnosticians and 504 coordinators will work with campus administration to determine which SPED/504 students will need to have new ARD/504 dates established and will work to reschedule those meetings and testings.

15. Is Family (No Homework) Night on the 13th still on?

Yes. We are following the published school calendar and the pre-determined schedule for family nights

16. Can a campus cancel its open house and not reschedule it?

Each campus is expected to have an open house for parents. The date is at the discretion of the principal. Please remember that many students will be displaced and attending new campuses. This is a great opportunity to showcase your school and for parents to meet our wonderful staff.

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17. Will the ACT tests that were to be administered on some campuses on September 9th be rescheduled?

The September administration of the ACT scheduled at Katy and Mayde Creek High Schools has been rescheduled. ACT will reach out to all registered students via email and communicate the new ACT date and time. At the time of this post they do not have this information.

18. Will scheduled meetings at the ESC for staff still take place?

In an effort to support campuses in getting schools open and realizing the need to have staff focused on campus needs, district training sessions and meetings will be cancelled through the month of September. This includes IC Fridays, Principal Collab, Assessment Council, Vertical Team meetings, AP Toolbox, KIC, etc. At this time, the only training that must be conducted is PSAT administration for high school testing coordinators. We will also hold the regularly scheduled Leadership Team meeting on September 26 at a location to be determined. Due to the extensive flooding at the ESC, it's likely the ESC will be unavailable for meetings or staff development until the spring semester. With the addition of the conference space at Legacy Stadium, meetings will likely be held there or at a campus until repairs at the ESC are complete.