



LAST UPDATED December 4, 2012

Hurricane Sandy FAQ for Families

Table of Contents

General Questions

- [When are schools reopening?](#)
- [What if my family had to leave home because of the hurricane and my child's school is not located near our temporary residence?](#)
- [If my child enrolls in a school near my temporary residence, will my child retain a right to a seat at his or her regular school when we return to our permanent home?](#)
- [If my family had to leave home because of the hurricane, who can I contact for assistance with school enrollment and transportation to either my child's original school or a school near my temporary residence?](#)
- [If my child's school has been temporarily relocated and I cannot or prefer not to send my child to the temporary location, can I temporarily enroll my child in another school?](#)
- [What school-related events have been cancelled or postponed due to the hurricane?](#)
- [Will school lunch be provided for students who have relocated because of the hurricane?](#)
- [Why were temporary co-location sites chosen?](#)
- [How long will relocated schools be at the temporary co-location sites?](#)

School Transportation

- [What transportation options are available for students whose schools have been relocated?](#)
- [My child has an IEP that requires specialized transportation services and is attending school at his or her regular building. What are the effects of Hurricane Sandy on these services?](#)
- [Our family is living away from our home because of the hurricane, and my child is attending a nearby school. Is a school bus available to take my child to his or her temporary school?](#)
- [Will field trips and after-school programs be cancelled?](#)
- [What is the impact of the gas shortage on school bus routes and schedules?](#)
- [Are subways running in neighborhoods with re-sited schools?](#)

School Calendar and Attendance

- [How will my child's attendance be recorded for October 29 through November 2 when all schools were closed because of Hurricane Sandy?](#)
- [How will student latenesses and absences be recorded in the weeks following Hurricane Sandy? What if my child has trouble getting to school?](#)
- [What are the expectations for student attendance in the weeks following Hurricane Sandy?](#)
- [What is the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the school year calendar? Will my child need to attend school for additional days later in the school year?](#)
- [How will student absences be recorded during the hurricane makeup days?](#)

Academics

- [How will my child make up the instruction and assignments missed during the days school was closed?](#)
- [Will the missed school days impact my child's grades?](#)

- [What is the impact of Hurricane Sandy on high school students planning to graduate in January 2013?](#)
- [Which exams were cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy, and when can students next take these exams?](#)
- [I was planning to submit a Request for Testing \(RFT\) for the Gifted and Talented test \(for my child in pre-kindergarten through grade 2\), but I could not submit the form last week due to Hurricane Sandy. Can I still submit a form?](#)

Special Education Services

- [My child receives special education supports from a paraprofessional and/or related service provider \(i.e., speech provider, occupational therapist, or physical therapist\). What are the effects of Hurricane Sandy on these services?](#)
- [My family has to relocate because of the effects of Hurricane Sandy. How can I ensure my child receives the services he or she needs at the new school he or she will attend?](#)

General Questions

Q: When are schools reopening?

A: The majority of schools reopened to students on Monday, November 5.

- However, some schools that were being used as shelters or that did not yet have electricity as of Monday are being reopened on Wednesday, November 7.
- In addition, a number of our schools sustained severe damage and will be unable to open for some time. Students from these schools will be directed to new school buildings beginning as soon as possible this week.

You can check the status of your school and find information on temporary relocation for damaged schools and the buildings that will host them [on the DOE website](#).

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: What if my family had to leave home because of the hurricane and my child's school is not located near our temporary residence?

A: Students of families forced by Hurricane Sandy to live away from home temporarily can remain in their original school or enroll in a school near their current temporary residence. These students will not need to provide any documents to enroll.

- Elementary and middle school students can temporarily enroll at the school that is zoned for their new temporary residence. To find the zoned school for a specific address, visit schools.nyc.gov or call 311. If there is no zoned school for that address, you should visit an [enrollment office](#) in the borough where you are currently residing. To find the enrollment office nearest you, visit schools.nyc.gov or call 311.
- High school students should visit an [enrollment office](#) if they would like to temporarily enroll at a school closer to where they are temporarily living.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: If my child enrolls in a school near my temporary residence, will my child retain a right to a seat at his or her regular school when we return to our permanent home?

A: Yes, students have the right to return to their home school.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: If my family had to leave home because of the hurricane, who can I contact for assistance with school enrollment and transportation to either my child's original school or a school near my temporary residence?

A: Students who have been displaced due to the hurricane are most likely entitled to receive services, including immediate enrollment, transportation to either their own school or to a school near their temporary residence, free meals, and other support for urgent needs, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The DOE's [Students in Temporary Housing](#) (STH) unit within the Office of Safety and Youth Development is available to support parents and students to ensure immediate enrollment and attendance in schools near their temporary residence. [STH Content Experts](#) are available in each borough to provide technical assistance and to work directly with families and schools.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: If my child's school has been temporarily relocated and I cannot or prefer not to send my child to the temporary location, can I temporarily enroll my child in another school?

A: Relocations are temporary, and we are working to return students to their original sites as quickly as possible. We expect many of the relocated schools to be returned to their home sites within the coming weeks. We believe that it is important for students to attend their relocated schools to minimize educational disruption.

While you may wish to explore options closer to your home, please consider the following when making the decision to seek out a new school:

- Choosing to attend the relocated school:
 - Students who attend relocated schools continue to have access to their own teachers and classmates
 - Students who attend relocated schools may have access to yellow bus shuttles, MetroCards, and/or travel reimbursement
- Choosing to attend a different school:
 - Students are *required* to return to their prior schools when the buildings become operational
 - Many schools may have high class sizes because of the number of families displaced from their homes during the storm seeking to enroll
 - Some schools in the surrounding community may have admissions criteria
 - Existing transportation eligibility rules apply (i.e., within district only and based on distance/grade)

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: What school-related events have been cancelled or postponed due to the hurricane?

A: Please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Home/InOurSchoolsToday/2012-2013/cancellations#events> for an up-to-date list of cancellations and rescheduled activities.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Will school lunch be provided for students who have relocated because of the hurricane?

A: Yes, school lunch service is up and running and will be provided free of charge for all students, including those attending school in new locations, throughout the month of November. In addition, all of our school buildings serve breakfast at no charge every day; in most instances breakfast is served before the start of the school day in



the cafeteria. If you have specific questions about breakfast service, please contact the school your child is attending.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Why were temporary co-location sites chosen?

A: After assessing the needs of schools housed in buildings that suffered severe damage as a result of the storm, temporary co-location sites were identified based on the ability of the building to accommodate additional students, the location of the school, grade ranges, and other capacity and logistical factors.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: How long will relocated schools be at the temporary co-location sites?

A: We will return relocated schools to their home sites as soon as possible. However, buildings that suffered severe damage will be reopened to students and staff only after damage is repaired and the buildings are deemed fit for school to resume. Unfortunately, it is not possible to commit to a single timeline for all relocated schools, but we will keep students, families, and school staff updated.

[Go back to the top](#)

School Transportation

Q: What transportation options are available for students whose schools have been relocated?

A: Several transportation options are available for students whose schools have been relocated. You can find your relocation site [on the DOE website](#). If you have transportation concerns not addressed here, please contact the Office of Pupil Transportation hotline: 718-392-8855.

Elementary and middle school students	
Busing Confirmed	<p>-Buses will pick students up from the closed school building at 7:00 a.m. and transport them to the new location. Buses will transport students back to the closed school building at the end of the school day. (Note: students at Q282-Knowledge and Power Prep Academy VI will have a bus pick up at 10:00 a.m.).</p> <p>-Families who choose to drop off or pick up their child from the temporary location are also eligible for reimbursement. See the DOE's website for reimbursement information.</p>
Busing Not Yet Confirmed	<p>The DOE will provide transportation support to families where busing is not yet available through the following two options:</p> <p>-Families/students should travel to their school relocation site, where they will receive MetroCards.</p> <p>-Families who drop off or pick up their child from the temporary location are also eligible for reimbursement. See the DOE's website for reimbursement information.</p>
High school students	
Busing Confirmed	<p>-Buses will pick students up from the closed school building at 10:00 a.m. and transport them to the new location. Buses will transport students back to the closed school building at the end of the school day.</p> <p>- Students <i>with MetroCards</i> from their school should continue using those cards to travel to their relocation site.</p> <p>-Students <i>without MetroCards</i> should travel to their school relocation site, where they will receive MetroCards.</p>
Busing Not Yet Confirmed	<p>-Students <i>with MetroCards</i> from their school should continue using those cards to travel to their relocation site.</p> <p>-Students <i>without MetroCards</i> should travel to their school relocation site, where they will receive MetroCards.</p>
Students with IEP-mandated transportation	
<p>Transportation will continue to be provided to all students with IEP-mandated transportation. These students will be picked up at their homes and taken to their temporary location. If these students have a sibling attending the same temporary location, and there is room on the bus, the sibling may ride the same bus.</p>	

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Our family is living away from our home because of the hurricane, and my child is attending a nearby school. Is a school bus available to take my child to his or her temporary school?

A: We are working to coordinate service to students' relocated addresses as quickly as possible. Please call the Office of Pupil Transportation hotline at (718) 392-8855 and provide us with your contact information, including



email address and phone number if available. We will contact you once transportation has been arranged for your new address.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Will field trips and after-school programs be cancelled?

A: Due to lingering effects from Hurricane Sandy, DOE transportation to after-school programs and field trips has been temporarily suspended. The Office of Pupil Transportation is working to ensure we can resume service to after-school locations as quickly as possible. Please contact your child's school with specific questions.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: What is the impact of the gas shortage on school bus routes and schedules?

A: There are no anticipated service disruptions to bus routes due to fuel shortages. We anticipate running bus routes close to normal, with delays expected from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We are working with our vendors and suppliers to ensure bus service resumes to normal levels as quickly as possible.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Are subways running in neighborhoods with re-sited schools?

A: As of Monday, November 5, the majority of the subway system is up and running. MTA NYC Transit is continuing its efforts to dry out flooded tubes, track, signals, and other components damaged in the storm. While service is somewhat limited, many New Yorkers are relying on the subway and bus system for commuting and managing the system's current limitations. Visit <http://www.mta.info/> for details so that you may plan your trip accordingly.

[Go back to the top](#)

School Calendar and Attendance

Q: How will my child's attendance be recorded for October 29 through November 2 when all schools were closed because of Hurricane Sandy?

A: Attendance will not be recorded for the week that school was closed due to Hurricane Sandy.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: How will student latenesses and absences be recorded in the weeks following Hurricane Sandy? What if my child has trouble getting to school?

A: Absences due to school closures and Latenesses or absences due to transportation-related issues resulting from Hurricane Sandy will be recorded as excused. Please communicate with your child's school to make the school staff aware of any challenges your child has arriving at school due to Hurricane Sandy.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: What are the expectations for student attendance in the weeks following Hurricane Sandy?

A: It is important for students whose schools have reopened either at their original location or at a new location to attend school regularly and arrive on time to the extent possible, though we recognize the challenges many families are facing as they recover from the storm.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: What is the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the school year calendar? Will my child need to attend school for additional days later in the school year?

A: In order to ensure that students have the opportunity to make up the learning time they missed due to the storm, it is necessary to make up these days later in the year. These days will be made up using previously scheduled non-instructional days, as follows:

- All schools will hold full-day sessions from Wednesday, February 20, through Friday, February 22, which were previously scheduled as part of mid-winter recess.
- Elementary and intermediate/junior high schools will hold full-day sessions on June 4, which was previously scheduled as a shortened clerical day for these schools.

Families should plan accordingly to ensure that students have the opportunity to make up missed learning experiences during these days.

Q: How will student absences be recorded during the hurricane makeup days?

A: Students are expected to attend school on all scheduled makeup days due to Hurricane Sandy. If you have concerns about your child's ability to attend school on any of these days (e.g., due to a pre-planned family trip), please contact your child's school. As for any school day, absences will be recorded as excused depending on the reason for the student's absence.

[Go back to the top](#)

Academics

Q: How will my child make up the instruction and assignments missed during the days school was closed?

A: Schools are working to ensure a smooth transition for all students in the weeks following Hurricane Sandy. In the coming weeks and months, schools will be sure to incorporate lessons and assignments missed because of the storm. Your child's school will provide specific information about their plans to make up missed classes and assignments. Please contact your child's school with any questions.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Will the missed school days impact my child's grades?

A: Some schools typically include attendance and/or homework assignments as part of students' grades. These schools will not penalize students for any days missed due to Hurricane Sandy. To support students in making up missed assignments, many schools will offer opportunities for makeup work. Please contact your child's school with any questions.

[Go back to the top](#)



Q: What is the impact of Hurricane Sandy on high school students planning to graduate in January 2013?

A: Students planning to graduate in January will still have the opportunity to do so. Schools are working to ensure that students planning to graduate maintain consistent academic programs and have the opportunity to complete needed courses and exams. Families can also support students in staying on track to graduate by checking in on student progress in courses and exams. Families can view information about graduation requirements here: <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/GraduationRequirements>.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: Which exams were cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy, and when can students next take these exams?

A: The Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) has been rescheduled as follows:

- The SHSAT administration scheduled for Sunday, October 28, has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 18.
- The SHSAT administration scheduled for Saturday, November 3, has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 17.

Accommodations will be made for students with conflicts.

The SAT administrations for New York City public schools scheduled for November 3 and 4 have been rescheduled for Saturday, November 17, and Sunday, November 18, respectively. Students can also go to the College Board website (<http://sat.collegeboard.org>) and change their test date to a regularly-scheduled December administration date.

[Go back to the top](#)

Q: I was planning to submit a Request for Testing (RFT) for the Gifted and Talented test (for my child in pre-kindergarten through grade 2), but I could not submit the form last week due to Hurricane Sandy. Can I still submit a form?

A: Yes. The deadline to submit RFT forms has been extended to Friday, November 16, due to the impact of Hurricane Sandy. There are two ways families can submit RFT forms:

- *Online:* visit the Gifted & Talented website: www.nyc.gov/schools/gt.

In person: visit a Borough Enrollment Office or submit the form to your child's school (remember to get a receipt). Borough Enrollment Office locations can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/NewStudents/BEO/BoroughEnrollmentOffices>. Please note that some schools and/or Borough Enrollment Offices may not be operational due to the impact of the storm. We encourage you to locate the nearest open Borough Enrollment Office to submit your child's RFT.

[Go back to the top](#)

Special Education Services

If you have transportation concerns, please contact the Office of Pupil Transportation hotline: 718-392-8855, but please note that there may be extended call-hold times.

Q: My child receives special education supports from a paraprofessional and/or related service provider (i.e., speech provider, occupational therapist, or physical therapist). What are the effects of Hurricane Sandy on these services?

A: For students whose schools have been relocated, service provision should continue with minimal interruption. There may be some minor, temporary changes to students' services as we transition students and staff to new buildings where they must share space with an existing school population. For students who have moved their residences due to the storm, we anticipate that there will be some breaks in related service provision while we have to identify new providers for students in new locations. We are working to make arrangements to minimize any such breaks.

Q: My family has to relocate because of the effects of Hurricane Sandy. How can I ensure my child receives the services he or she needs at the new school he or she will attend?

A: Your child will have the opportunity to attend a school in the community to which you have relocated. All public schools are positioned to provide the majority of the supports and services that your child may need as per his or her IEP. Staff at your new school will review your child's IEP and work with you to develop an appropriate program. If your child needs a very specialized program, we will ensure that he or she receives those services at an appropriate location.

[Go back to the top](#)