



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
POST OFFICE BOX 94064, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9064
Toll Free #: 1-877-453-2721
<http://www.louisianaschools.net>

September 14, 2005

Dear Friend of Louisiana:

Thank you very much for contacting the Louisiana Department of Education about assisting the state's educational communities that were so devastatingly affected by Hurricane Katrina. Since the onset of the disaster, spontaneous offers of help have come to us from individuals, schools, businesses, and community organizations. It has been overwhelming to feel the compassion of our fellow Americans and to know that so many people truly care.

We appreciate your kind offer of assistance. At this time, we are in the process of assessing student, teacher, and school district needs so that resources may be directed to the appropriate parties. Because so many in our educational community are affected, the logistics of serving the displaced population are challenging. As we work through the many offers of assistance, we will be in further contact as needed.

Again, we thank you for your thoughtfulness and your generosity at this difficult time for Louisiana and its people. Please know that we appreciate very much your stepping forward to offer assistance. The concern expressed by so many of our fellow Americans has strengthened us as we cope with the enormity of the hurricane's disastrous effects on Louisiana's displaced students and teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cecil J. Picard".

Cecil J. Picard
State Superintendent of Education

CJP:mhm