








# School Resource Guide for Disaster Evacuees

**Tom Wolf, Governor**

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services | Pennsylvania Department of Health

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November 20, 2017

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Earlier this year, residents of Puerto Rico, the southeastern United States, and other affected regions were displaced by a series of significant natural disasters that claimed homes, possessions, and lives. Those residents were forced to evacuate their homes quickly and find a safe place to relocate, sometimes with very little notice or preparation.

At the direction of Governor Wolf, Pennsylvania's state agencies have been working together to accommodate and support evacuees from Puerto Rico and other devastated areas, a number that is well into the thousands and continues to grow every day. These agencies, under the guidance of the Wolf Administration, have pooled resources and services to ensure that any evacuees entering the commonwealth will have the assistance and the supports they need while they're here.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has developed, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, a document to assist the commonwealth's schools in these efforts. The attached guide, will help educators and administrators navigate the services and resources available to them as they welcome new residents to their communities.

A larger Evacuee Toolkit, a multi-agency resource guide for service providers and Pennsylvania residents, will also be forthcoming. It is our hope that the release of this formal guidance will only further bolster our efforts to assist evacuees here in the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania was founded on the belief of inclusion and equity – for all its residents – and we are committed to upholding that mission as we work to assist those in need. Thank you for all that you do to serve your students, their families, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pedro A. Rivera".

Pedro A. Rivera  
Secretary of Education



## Pre-Kindergarten

### Homeless Education Resources

The Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH) ensures that all children and youth, including birth through preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness enroll, participate, and can succeed in school; and that those students receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) on an equal basis with all other children in the state. The program reduces educational barriers using local best practices and the authorized activities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

The Homeless Education program at the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provides:

1. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services;
2. Referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services;
3. Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students;
4. The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs;
5. Before and after-school mentoring programs and summer programs;
6. The provision of school supplies and uniforms; and
7. Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.

### Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is a voluntary state-funded pre-kindergarten program established by PDE. It serves income eligible three and four-year-olds and offers half-day and full-day classes taught by certified teachers using a curriculum aligned to state standards. Pre-K Counts provides families in participating communities with a choice of quality pre-kindergarten options in a school, child care center, Head Start, or nursery school. The program increases access to quality pre-kindergarten to children and families throughout the commonwealth with a priority in at-risk communities.

[Learn more about the program, eligibility, and how to enroll your child.](#)

### Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP)

The Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) provides state funds to supplement federal head start monies to expand high-quality, pre-kindergarten Head Start services for income and age eligible children. HSSAP programs provide comprehensive services to low-income children ages three to kindergarten.

[Learn more about the program, eligibility, and how to enroll your child.](#)

## **Early Intervention Services (EI)**

EI services are provided through the Bureau of Early Intervention Services. Infants, toddlers, and preschool children with special needs due to a developmental delay or disability are eligible to receive early intervention services. In addition, infants and toddlers under the age of three that are considered homeless can have their development tracked through Early Intervention.

To [learn more about Early Intervention](#), contact CONNECT information services at 800-692-7288, or email [connecthelp@tiu.11.org](mailto:connecthelp@tiu.11.org).

## **Home Visiting Programs**

Home Visiting Programs serve at-risk families with young children.

### **Nurse Family Partnership**

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps first-time mothers from low-income families experience healthy pregnancies, promotes early literacy, and encourages school readiness by helping mothers learn how to foster healthy development in their children. Families receive services during pregnancy until the child turns two years old. For information visit [www.nursefamilypartnership.org](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org).

### **Healthy Families America**

Healthy Families America (HFA) is a home visiting program that works with families who may have histories of trauma, intimate partner violence, mental health issues, and/or substance abuse issues. Services for this program begin prenatally, or immediately after the birth of a baby. They are offered voluntarily, intensively, and over the long term, from birth until three to five years. The HFA program is currently available in Erie, Lewistown, Upper Darby, and Wilkesburg counties. For more information, please visit [www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org).

### **Parents as Teachers**

Parents as Teachers (PAT) provides home visits with trained experts who educate parents on how to become the first and most important teachers in their child's life. This program offers support services from pregnancy to Kindergarten, serving at-risk families such as teen parents, parents or children with disabilities, low-income families, parents without a high school diploma or equivalent, and parents experiencing substance abuse. For more information, please visit [www.pa-pat.org](http://www.pa-pat.org).

### **Early Head Start**

Early Head Start gives low-income families and pregnant women the skills they need to enhance their children's growth from birth to three years. To locate an Early Head Start program near you, visit: <http://paheadstart.org/index.php/head-start-in-pa/local-head-start-information>.

## **Subsidized Child Care – Child Care Works**

The subsidized child care program – known as Child Care Works (CCW) – helps low-income families pay for child care fees. The CCW program is managed by the Child Care Information Services (CCIS) office located in your county. To qualify, families must:

- Live in Pennsylvania;
- Have a child or children under age 13 who need child care while the parent works or goes to school;
- Work a minimum of 20 hours per week, or a minimum of 10 hours per week while in school or training a minimum of 10 hours per week;
- Have income below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (a family of four could not have annual income more than \$49,200); and
- Pay a weekly co-payment toward the cost of care.

Parents may choose the provider of their choice. Parents may choose a child care center, a small family day care home, a group day care home, or a relative to care for his or her child. Families can find financial help and assistance locating child care by contacting the local CCIS. Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services’ website at <http://www.dhs.pa.gov>, “Child Care and Early Learning” or call 1-877-4-PA-KIDS to find the CCIS in your community. Families can also locate child care and other early learning programs by using the Department’s COMPASS website at [www.findchildcarepa.gov](http://www.findchildcarepa.gov).

## **Child and Adult Care Food Program**

Children attending childcare at entities that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are also eligible for free meals when they are deemed homeless.

For more information, contact CACFP at: [RA-CACFP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CACFP@pa.gov).

## **Summer Food Service Program**

Children attending summer meal service sites that participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are also eligible for free meals.

For more information, contact CACFP at: [RA-SFSP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-SFSP@pa.gov)

## **Disease Screenings**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) does not currently have set guidelines for health care facilities/providers about people who have traveled to areas affected by hurricanes. Patients are encouraged to share their travel histories with their doctors and all are encouraged to familiarize themselves with illnesses and conditions that can occur after natural disasters. While there are no specific diseases or symptoms that must be reported to the DOH because of hurricanes, reportable diseases as listed in the link below must be reported to either the local health department or DOH if confirmed or suspected. Reportable diseases should also be reported via PA-NEDSS.

[Search a list of reportable diseases.](#)

[Get additional information.](#)

## **WIC**

Pennsylvania WIC is the Pennsylvania Women Infants Children Program. This program helps pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of infants and young children learn about good nutrition to keep themselves and their families healthy.

WIC provides nutrition services, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals, and healthy foods to eligible participants.

### **Who is Eligible for WIC?**

- Women who are pregnant or had a baby in the past six months or twelve months if breastfeeding;
- Infants and children under age five; and
- Fathers, grandparents, and foster parents who are the legal guardian of a child under age five may apply for WIC on their behalf.

### **How do I Apply?**

To apply for WIC, call 1-800-942-9467 to be connected to a WIC office. The WIC staff will answer your questions and schedule your appointment. [Get more information \(in English and Spanish\).](#)

## **Flu Shots**

The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of six months receive a flu shot.

For the 2017–18 season, ACIP has recommended that the live attenuated influenza nasal spray vaccine (LAIV4 or FluMist) should not be used. [Learn more about vaccine clinics around the state.](#)

## **Immunizations**

While the [immunization requirements](#) are waived for many of the schoolchildren evacuating Puerto Rico, the following guidelines may still be helpful. Barring any medical, religious, or philosophical exemptions, all students should have required immunizations.

The [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children](#) program provides vaccinations at no cost (including flu shots) for eligible children.

## Kindergarten - Grade 12

### **Homeless Education Resources**

The Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH) ensures that all children and youth, including birth through preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness enroll, participate, and can succeed in school; and that those students receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) on an equal basis with all other children in the state. The program reduces educational barriers using local best practices and the authorized activities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

The Homeless Education program at the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provides:

1. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services;
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3. Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students;
4. The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs;
5. Before and after-school mentoring programs and summer programs;
6. The provision of school supplies and uniforms; and
7. Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.

### **Out-of-State Transfers for Students with Disabilities**

Recent natural weather-related disasters have resulted in the influx of evacuees who are enrolling in a new school in the commonwealth from out of state. Many of these evacuees received special education services from their public school and may continue to be eligible to receive special education services.

According to 34 CFR § 300.323(f): If a child with a disability (who had an IEP that was in effect in a previous public agency in another State) transfers to a new public agency in a new State, and enrolls in a new school within the same school year, the new public agency, (in consultation with the parents), must provide the child with FAPE (including services comparable to those described in the child's IEP from the previous public agency), until the new public agency conducts an evaluation pursuant to §§ 300.304 through 300.306, (if determined to be necessary by the new public agency), and develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP, if appropriate, that meets the applicable requirements in §§ 300.320 through 300.324. The evaluation conducted by the new public agency would be to determine if the child is a child with a disability and to determine the educational needs of the child. Therefore, the evaluation would not be a reevaluation, but would be an initial evaluation by the new public agency, which would require parental consent as indicated under 34 CFR § 300.304 (a) Notice. The public agency must provide notice to the parents of a child with a disability, in accordance with § 300.503, that describes any evaluation procedures the agency proposes to conduct.



[Learn more about out-of-state transfers for students with disabilities](#) or contact the [Bureau of Special Education](#).

## **Eligibility for Free Meals for Students & Children through the Child Nutrition Programs Displaced by a Natural Disaster**

When students are deemed homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, they are eligible for free meals in the Child Nutrition Programs.

### **School Nutrition Programs**

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): students relocating into a school that participates in CEP, even short term, receive the same free meal benefits as all students in the school. The schools can claim these meals for reimbursement as they do all other meals. This applies to any CEP school (may vary by school if CEP is not district-wide).
- Non-CEP schools: students deemed homeless are eligible for free meals. The district can claim these meals for free reimbursement as they do other meals. Food service will need a letter from the school district's homeless liaison with the homeless students' names. This applies to any non-CEP school.

For more information about CEP and non-CEP schools, please contact: [RA-NSLP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-NSLP@pa.gov).

### **Child and Adult Care Food Program**

Children attending childcare at entities that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are also eligible for free meals when they are deemed homeless.

For more information, contact CACFP at: [RA-CACFP@pa.gov](mailto:RA-CACFP@pa.gov).

### **Summer Food Service Program**

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### **The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

SNAP provides funding for the purchase of food stuffs for those who are eligible.

SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp program. These benefits are used to buy food and help eligible low-income households in Pennsylvania obtain more nutritious diets by increasing their food purchasing power at grocery stores and supermarkets. If you are eligible, you will receive a Pennsylvania Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) ACCESS card, which is used to make food purchases at grocery stores and supermarkets.

[Get more information about the SNAP program.](#)

## **Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) for Presidential Declared Disaster (Individual Assistance)**

The CCP helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. The CCP supports short-term interventions that help disaster survivors understand their current situation and reactions, mitigate stress, assist survivors in reviewing their disaster recovery options, promote the use or development of coping strategies, provide emotional support, and encourage linkages with other individuals and agencies who may help survivors in their recovery process.

NOTE: state and federal emergency declarations are required. [Learn more about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Crisis Counseling Program.](#)

## **The Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**

Other Needs Assistance (ONA) helps people affected by a disaster. It provides money, up to the program maximum, for necessary expenses and serious needs, not housing related, that can't be met through other means.

Examples: personal property, childcare, medical, and dental expenses, funeral and burial costs, transportation.

1. Household income must fall within the range of low income as set by the Small Business Administration's low income scale; or
2. Applicant must have applied for a SBA loan and been declined due to inability to repay a loan. Essential personal property includes such items as kitchen table and chairs; kitchen utensils; beds; bed linens; couch; chair; a lamp; a telephone, etc. It does not include stereo systems, video games, VCRs, DVD player/recorders; toys; etc. It is limited to items needed for daily needs. The items lost must be verified by the site inspection performed by the FEMA inspector. Based upon documentation provided by the eligible disaster victim, this program also aids with replacement or repair to uninsured essential medical equipment; uninsured transportation; moving and storage due to disaster (not due to evacuation); assistance with uninsured funeral expenses due to disaster; uninsured disaster caused medical and dental expenses; and loss of seasonal clothing.

NOTE: state and federal emergency declarations are required. [Learn more about disaster assistance.](#)

## **Medical Assistance**

Medical Assistance provides subsidized medical coverage to low-income individuals and families.

Examples: dental services, breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment, Healthy Beginnings for Pregnant Women, Medicare Part D, drug coverage information, family planning

services, help with medical appointments if English is limited, sign language interpreter services for medical appointments, substance abuse services, Office of Long-term Living, long-term care services, long-term living in PA, transportation, and medical assistance transportation program. [Learn more about Medical Assistance.](#)

### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program. The four purposes of the TANF program are to:

1. Aid needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.
2. Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

TANF is also referred to as "cash assistance." [Learn more about TANF.](#)

### **Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT)**

ELECT helps pregnant and parenting students, both male and female, under 22 years of age, to earn a high school diploma or its equivalent. This program is no cost to the parents or students.

This program helps young parents remain in school, earn a diploma, find doctors and health care, get transportation, get training for a job, and have access to other critical services. In addition to promoting self-sufficiency, the ELECT program provides participants with pregnancy prevention information, help to prevent secondary pregnancy, and information about healthy parental relationships.

For more information, call 717-783-6466.

### **Disease Screenings**

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WIC provides nutrition services, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals, and healthy foods to eligible participants.

### **Who is Eligible for WIC?**

- Women who are pregnant or had a baby in the past six months or twelve months if breastfeeding;
- Infants and children under age five; and
- Fathers, grandparents, and foster parents who are the legal guardian of a child under age five may apply for WIC on their behalf.

### **How do I Apply?**

To apply for WIC, call 1-800-942-9467 to be connected to a WIC office. The WIC staff will answer your questions and schedule your appointment. [Get more information \(in English and Spanish\).](#)

## **Flu Shots**

The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of six months receive a flu shot.

For the 2017–18 season, ACIP has recommended that the live attenuated influenza nasal spray vaccine (LAIV4 or FluMist) should not be used. [Learn more about vaccine clinics around the state.](#)

## **Immunizations**

While the [immunization requirements](#) are waived for many of the schoolchildren evacuating Puerto Rico, the following guidelines may still be helpful. Barring any medical, religious, or philosophical exemptions, all students should have required immunizations.

The [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children](#) program provides vaccinations at no cost (including flu shots) for eligible children.

## Postsecondary

### **Adult Education**

The Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma (CSSD) is a high school equivalency credential available to Pennsylvania residents who have reached the age of 18, do not have a high school diploma from the United States, and are not currently enrolled in secondary school. The credential may be achieved by passing the GED® test, the HiSET® exam, or completing the 30 College Credit Option.

Information about the GED® test including Pennsylvania testing requirements, adult educational classes, scheduling a test, and age waiver requests may be found at: [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com).

Information about the HiSET® exam including Pennsylvania testing requirements, adult educational classes, scheduling a test, and age waiver requests may be found at: [www.hiset.org](http://www.hiset.org).

Information about the 30 College Credit Option may be found at: [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov) under Postsecondary & Adult and under High School Equivalency.

### **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)**

**State Grants and Special Programs:** The Pennsylvania State Grant Program is a financial assistance program that provides funding to eligible Pennsylvanians and helps them afford the costs of higher education. PHEAA administers the Pennsylvania State Grant Program at no cost to taxpayers, ensuring that every dollar appropriated to the program goes directly to students. [See a list of programs here.](#)

**Higher Education Access Partners:** Some of the outreach provided to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania include: financial aid presentations, FAFSA® completion sessions, school support, student programs, education conferences, interactions with community and government partners, and more. Contact the access partner in your region for more information.

**Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF):** The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program was established to encourage individuals to enter and continue in full-time public service employment. The program allows the individual to receive forgiveness of the remaining balance of your Direct Loans after the individual has made 120 qualifying monthly payments, while working full time for a qualifying employer. To receive forgiveness, the individual applying must remain employed with a qualifying employer at the time the individual applies for and receives forgiveness for their loans. Visit [MyFedLoan.org/PSLF](http://MyFedLoan.org/PSLF) to learn more about this program.

### **Policy 2017-01: Students Affected by Disasters**

Significant disasters may result in affected postsecondary education institutions suspending operations and displacing students. This policy enables Pennsylvania's State System of Higher

Education universities to meet the educational needs of students who have been displaced from postsecondary institutions that suspended their operations due to a disaster.

- **Disaster:** An event such as a flood, tornado, fire, earthquake, or hurricane that causes substantial damage such that a college or university in a particular region is inoperable for an extended period of time pursuant to declaration by appropriate legal authority.
- **Eligible Displaced Students:** Students, not domiciled in Pennsylvania, who have had their enrollment disrupted at an accredited college or university within the United States or its territories that has suspended operations due to a disaster. Universities are encouraged to work in good faith with students who are not immediately able to provide official college/university transcripts.
- **Out-of-State Tuition:** Tuition and the technology tuition fee charged to students who are not domiciled in Pennsylvania.

University presidents may waive a portion of out-of-state tuition to eligible displaced students who attend postsecondary institutions that have suspended their operations due to a disaster. Students who meet admission requirements may be offered enrollment on a space available basis and may be charged a reduced out-of-state tuition rate that is at least 102 percent of the in-state rate. University presidents may waive any or all other associated fees.

The chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the Board of Governors, is authorized to waive any policies as necessary to ensure the successful matriculation of eligible displaced students. The chancellor shall promulgate procedures, standards, and guidelines that will ensure compliance with federal and state financial aid requirements, as well as enrollment expectations and window of eligibility for reduced tuition.

### **Veteran's Education**

If schools temporarily close due to recent hurricanes, Veterans' Affairs (VA) will continue payments for certified periods of enrollment through the end of the term or up to four weeks (28 calendar days) from the date of the temporary school closure, whichever is earlier. VA has no authority to issue payments for terms that would have begun during a temporary shutdown. In that scenario, VA will resume payments for training effective the date the student begins training after the school reopens.

If your school is, or was, temporarily closed due to recent hurricanes, VA will consider your attendance as continuous and your payment will not be affected. Beneficiaries Using Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill) or Chapter 35 (Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program).

As long as the enrollment was submitted prior to the incident, no further action is necessary to receive continued payment. Beneficiaries Using Chapter 30 or 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill) or Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP).

Students should continue to verify their attendance until further notice as if the school did not close -- doing this will ensure that the payment is not affected. Students may verify their attendance using the WAVE website or by calling 1-877-VACERT.

Contact the Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST) for more information.

### **Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission: Bias and Discrimination Complaints**

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) promotes equal opportunity and enforces non-discrimination laws; receives and investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation and education; provides fair practice notices to PA employers businesses, schools, colleges, lenders and housing providers; and operates the PA Interagency Task Force on Community Activities and Relations.

The Public Human Relations Commission:

1. Collects factual data related to complaints of discrimination via questionnaires.
2. Drafts and serves complaints of discrimination.
3. Conducts investigation of complaints.
4. Adjudicates complaints of discrimination. Prevents and responds to civil tension incidents.

[Visit the PHRC website for more information.](#)

### **Disease Screenings**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) does not currently have set guidelines for health care facilities/providers about people who have traveled to areas affected by hurricanes. Patients are encouraged to share their travel histories with their doctors and all are encouraged to familiarize themselves with illnesses and conditions that can occur after natural disasters. While there are no specific diseases or symptoms that must be reported to the DOH because of hurricanes, reportable diseases as listed in the link below must be reported to either the local health department or DOH if confirmed or suspected. Reportable diseases should also be reported via PA-NEDSS.

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[Get additional information.](#)

### **WIC**

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WIC provides nutrition services, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals, and healthy foods to eligible participants.

### **Who is Eligible for WIC?**

- Women who are pregnant or had a baby in the past six months or twelve months if breastfeeding;
- Infants and children under age five; and
- Fathers, grandparents, and foster parents who are the legal guardian of a child under age five may apply for WIC on their behalf.

### **How do I Apply?**

To apply for WIC, call 1-800-942-9467 to be connected to a WIC office. The WIC staff will answer your questions and schedule your appointment. [Get more information \(in English and Spanish\).](#)

### **Flu Shots**

The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of six months receive a flu shot.

For the 2017–18 season, ACIP has recommended that the live attenuated influenza nasal spray vaccine (LAIV4 or FluMist) should not be used. [Learn more about vaccine clinics around the state.](#)

### **Immunizations**

While the [immunization requirements](#) are waived for many of the schoolchildren evacuating Puerto Rico, the following guidelines may still be helpful. Barring any medical, religious, or philosophical exemptions, all students should have required immunizations.

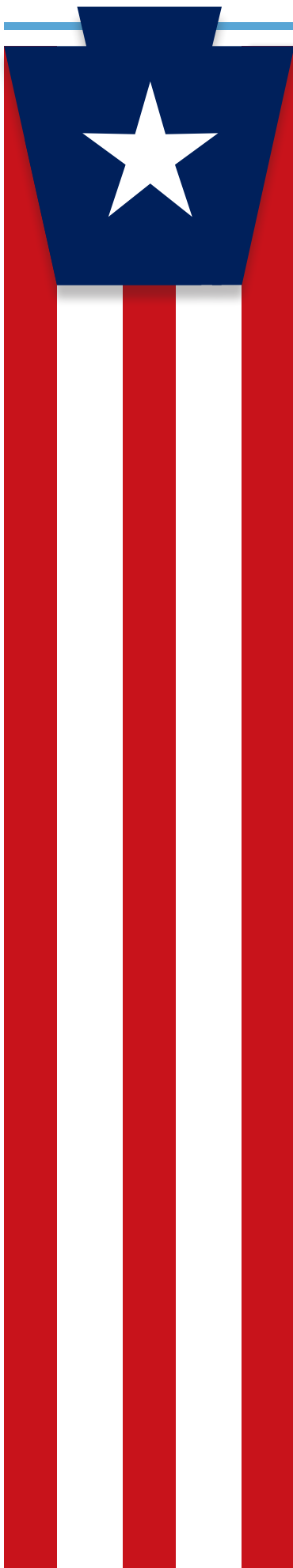
The [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children](#) program provides vaccinations at no cost (including flu shots) for eligible children.



## **Appendix A: Resources for Parents**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) have provided the following documents for parents, families, and guardians of your students. The information contained therein is printed in both English and Spanish, and may help your students' families receive additional needed services.

PDE and DHS encourage you to share these documents with students and their families.



THE WOLF ADMINISTRATION IS

# HERE TO HELP

**Do you have questions? Are you looking for more information?**  
Use the Department of Education resources listed below:

**1.800.879.2301**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Call to receive information to help evacuee students who receive special education services at their original school.

**1.717.783.6466**  
**STUDENT SERVICES**

Call for assistance with questions about enrollment, school meals, English Learners, and other issues impacting K-12 students.

**[www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)**  
**EARLY LEARNING**

Information about Pre-K Counts, Head Start, and early intervention services can be found through the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL).

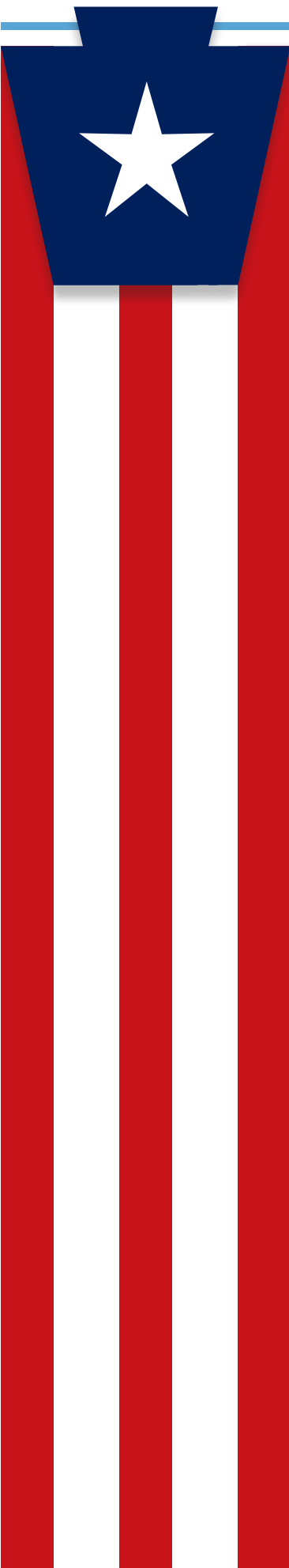
**1.717.772.3737**  
**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

Pennsylvania is home to nearly 250 postsecondary and higher education institutions. Questions about higher education can be directed to the above number.

**[www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)**

Visit the Department's website for additional information on subjects, such as:

- Equity and inclusion
- Safe schools
- Food services
- Family support programs
- Home schooling
- Intellectual disabilities services
- Library information



THE WOLF ADMINISTRATION IS

# HERE TO HELP

**Do you have questions? Are you looking for more information?**

Use the Department of Human Services resources listed below:

**1.800.692.7462**

**DHS HELPLINE**

The department's helpline can help you find the answers to your questions or direct you to the information/resources that you need.

**[www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)**

**APPLY FOR BENEFITS**

COMPASS is the way to apply online for many health and human service programs, including help with medical coverage, food, and child care. It's fast and easy.

**1.800.986.5437**

**CHIP BENEFITS**

If you have questions about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), call the above number.

**1.800.932.0313**

**REPORT CHILD ABUSE**

Call ChildLine to report suspected child abuse or general child well-being concerns. Calls are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**[www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)**

Visit the department's website for additional information on many subjects, including:

- Housing
- Medical insurance
- Food
- Mental health services
- Intellectual disabilities services
- Children with special needs
- Child care
- Report child abuse

## **Appendix B: Newcomer Academy**

Newcomer Academy, a program at the Allentown School District, helps English Learners who have just arrived to the district and have had little exposure to the English language. Through intensive instruction and assistance with acclimating to a new culture and environment, the Academy provides students with critical, tailored supports and services.

The following document explains the program and is provided as a model to other local education agencies throughout the commonwealth. For more information, contact Katie Gill, Principal, or Lisa Greitzer, Facilitator, at 484-765-5680.

**If you have questions:**

**Please contact:**

Katie Gill, Principal

Lisa Greitzer, Facilitator



## **Newcomer Academy**

### **Mission**

The Allentown School District Newcomer Academy's mission is to support students who are new arrivals to the United States with minimal English language skills, as well as those who may have limited formal schooling in their native country. Our school stresses intensive English language instruction for social, cultural and academic purposes while simultaneously helping students to acclimate to a new culture. Additionally, we offer our students the support necessary to successfully complete high school, go on to post-secondary education or begin a career.

**Allentown School District**

**31 South Penn Street**

**Allentown, PA 18105**

**484-765-4000**

## **Allentown School District ESOL Newcomer Academy**



### **ESOL Newcomer Academy**



**2020 East Pennsylvania street**

**Allentown, PA 18103**

**484-765-5680**

# Allentown School District ESOL Newcomer Academy

## Programs and Courses

The Allentown School District Newcomer Academy serves a culturally and linguistically diverse population of more than 200 students from around the world. The Newcomer Academy is designed to support students who are new arrivals to the United States with minimal English language skills, as well as those who may have limited formal schooling in their native country. Our school offers focused English language instruction and supported content courses so students can obtain adequate skills to be successful in courses in their home school. The Newcomer Academy program includes:

- English for Speakers of Other Languages courses
- Middle & High School Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra and Geometry courses
- Environmental Science, Physical, Science and Biology courses
- United States History, American Government and Social Studies courses.
- Lunch.
- Extracurricular activities and tutoring.
- Parental involvement activities.



## Tips to Help Your Child

### Succeed In School

1. Set high expectation about education.
2. Emphasize punctuality and attendance.
3. Get involved in the school community.
4. Show daily interest in your child's school activities.
5. Seek additional help for you child, if needed.
6. Talk with school personnel about your child's progress

## Placement and Transition Parameters

Registration documentation will be reviewed before admission is finalized. Students qualify for placement at the Newcomer Academy based on the following criteria:

- ◆ Home Language Survey Results
- ◆ WIDA-Online Screener Test Score
- ◆ US entry date
- ◆ No previous US school experience

**All transition documentation will be reviewed before reclassification is finalized. Student reclassification will be based on the following :**

- ◆ WIDA-ACCESS annual proficiency assessment results
- ◆ Observable attainment of adequate English skills for grade-level content course success