



Report on Districts Enrolling Students Following the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti

March 2011

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
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Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this "Report on Districts Enrolling Students Following the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti," pursuant to *Section 164 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010*. In preparing this report, the Department identified six school districts that enrolled more than 25 additional students who identified their country of origin as Haiti following the earthquake in that country in January 2010.

Communities with existing populations of residents from Haiti anticipated a significant increase in enrollment as a result of the devastating nature of the earthquake in that country. For the most part, the influx of additional students was fairly limited, and school districts were able to educate the additional students using existing resources. One district, however, reported the need to add three staff to its English as a Second Language program to accommodate the additional students.

School districts must often manage programmatic and financial challenges as a result of student mobility. Once enrolled, the students will count toward future Chapter 70 aid. Massachusetts educators and school districts are to be commended for the vital role they play in providing stability as well as educational programs and services to students who arrive in school after experiencing disruption and dislocation. The Department will continue to work with districts that experience unexpected increases in enrollment due to natural disasters and help coordinate health and related services as needed.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Report

Section 164 of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010, An Act Making Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011, requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) to develop a report on districts enrolling students following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti:

SECTION 164. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of elementary and secondary education shall develop a plan for any city or town that has enrolled more than 25 students displaced by an earthquake since January 2010. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the per pupil cost and the per pupil cost of counseling and interpretive services and shall be submitted, together with a draft of legislation necessary to implement these recommendations, if any, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on education not later than December 31, 2010.

In response to this mandate, the Department identified six school districts that had enrollment increases of 25 or more Haitian students based on an analysis of enrollment data between October 2009 – June 2010: Boston, Brockton, Everett, Malden, Randolph, and Waltham. In each of these districts, enrollment reports submitted to the Department's Student Information Management System (SIMS) showed an increase of 25 or more enrolled students with Haiti as their country of origin. The increases ranged from 27 students to more than 375 in the largest district. The Department's data do not capture why the students have newly enrolled, but based on anecdotal reports from the districts there is an assumption that most of these students were displaced by the earthquake.

It appears that increases in enrollment in these communities occurred because the earthquake survivors were sponsored by family and community members residing within the district, many with their own school age children/youth currently enrolled. Therefore, the newly arrived students joined the district's pre-existing Haitian population. According to reports from the districts, these students then accessed the instructional, interpretive, counseling, and student support services that were already in place. One district reported that it did not quantify how much the new students cost the district, as it already had a number of English language learners speaking Haitian Creole receiving services and the district "just added them into the fold." The district did report that it took significant planning to determine an efficient method of bringing the new students into the schools, from immediate registration to conducting language surveys and placing students into schools/programs. The district did not quantify the cost for this work. Two other districts reported that they did not calculate expenditures by program type and that the new students joined programs already in place in the district.

Beyond using existing services, one district reported that it added staff to expand its English as a Second Language programs to serve the additional Haitian students who enrolled from 2/10 through 6/10. The district – Brockton – added one teacher and two paraprofessionals due to the unexpected increase in enrollment of Haitian students, at a pro-rated cost for the five-month period of \$82,800 (one teacher at \$47,200 and two paraprofessionals at a total of \$35,600).

As the chart below indicates, the percentage of students with Haiti as their country of origin was 1.6% or less of the total enrollment for communities reporting an increase of 25 students or more.

District Enrollment/New Students with Haiti as Country of Origin

School District	2009-2010 Enrollment	New students in 2010 with Haiti as country of origin	% of 2010 total enrollment of new students with Haiti as country of origin
Boston	61,472	383	0.6%
Brockton	16,653	147	0.9%
Everett	6,495	50	0.8%
Malden	6,937	60	0.9%
Randolph	3,143	50	1.6%
Waltham	5,074	27	0.5%

Source: ESE's Student Information Management System (SIMS), District Profile for 2010

The new students from Haiti who enrolled in these districts following the January 2010 earthquake are a subset of the larger number of students who enrolled in these districts after the start of the 2009-10 school year. The issue of student mobility (i.e., students moving between schools and districts for reasons other than grade promotion) presents school districts with challenges for providing school programs and support services, instructional materials and supplies, transportation, and overall continuity of educational experiences. These challenges are the greatest for the state's lowest performing districts and schools as they experience the highest mobility rates. The Department has prepared a report on student mobility that can provide a context for discussing the issue of students arriving after the start of the school year.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/0810mobility.doc>

It should be noted that the Department currently does not have a discretionary funding source to address unanticipated fiscal needs of districts. In past years, when the foundation reserve “pothole” line item (7061-0011) was included in the Department’s budget, this fund was employed to address fiscal stresses that school districts experienced and that were not anticipated by the Chapter 70 formula.¹



¹ The Chapter 70 funding formula is based on the number of students enrolled as of October 1 of the prior school year. Thus, if a district has 1,000 students on October 1, 2009 (school year 2009-10), these students are factored into the Chapter 70 calculations for the school year 2010-11. Students arriving after October 1, 2009 will not be included in the calculations for the school year 2010-11 even if they are attending school at that time. If these students remain in attendance on October 1, 2010, they will be included in the Chapter 70 calculations for school year 2011-12. Note that students who are in the district on October 1, 2009, but leave the district before October 1, 2010 will still be included in the Chapter 70 calculations for school year 2010-11.



The Department plans to continue to work with districts that experience unexpected increases in enrollment due to natural disasters and help coordinate health and related services as needed. See the Addendum for examples of guidance the Department has provided to districts.

Addendum

Guidance on Enrolling Haitian Students Following the 2010 Earthquake

Posted on the SSCES/ESE McKinney-Vento website:

  [Memo on school entry immunization requirement](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/EOHHS_immunization.doc)
http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/EOHHS_immunization.doc

  [Memo to schools regarding Haitian children vaccine status](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/EOHHS_vaccinestatus.doc)
http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/EOHHS_vaccinestatus.doc

Education Research Brief: Student Mobility

August 2010 Office of Strategic Plannin, Research and Evaluation

  [Education Research Brief: Student Mobility](http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/0810mobility.doc)
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/0810mobility.doc>