

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction - Transportation Services
Hurricane Floyd – Transportation Response Issues
CONTACT: Derek Graham, Section Chief
Phone: (919) 715-1950 Pager (919) 310-5519
E-Mail: dgraham@dpi.state.nc.us

1. What is the impact on the 1999-2000 student count that was to be conducted in late September and due on October 15, 1999?

In LEAs affected by the hurricane and subsequent flooding, the student count need not be conducted until things are back to normal. The most important thing is that there be an accurate count that fairly represents the number of students transported in your LEA. The report should consist of a count from a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The October 15 deadline will be waived and transportation directors in affected LEAs should work directly with Steve Beachum at DPI to identify a time for the count to be administered.

2. Are the state transportation reports still due on October 15th and November 1st?

The TD-2, TD-2R and TD-24A reports are due at DPI by October 15th. For LEAs in counties affected by the hurricane, these deadlines will be extended. Transportation directors should contact Steve Beachum to arrange for new reporting deadlines. The TD-TIMS report is due on November 1st at the TIMS project office. LEAs not submitting by this date, or submitting incomplete data, will automatically be allowed to submit data prior to February 15, 2000 for inclusion in the funding formula. TIMS coordinators should contact the TIMS project office to make arrangements.

3. Can school be re-opened even though buses cannot travel all roads?

This would not differ from other adverse weather policies that are implemented during periods of snow, etc. Many districts offer limited transportation services in affected areas by travelling only major (passable) roads and parents are asked to get their students to the revised stop locations.

4. What will be the impact on this year's transportation allotments and transportation budget ratings?

Transportation budget ratings decrease when – all other things equal – expenditures increase. Naturally, with buses being re-routed and extended due to road closings and school reassignments, expenditures in affected counties could increase significantly. Transportation directors should closely document any storm-related expenses (including driver expenses and repair parts) and submit them prior to April 15, 2000 for the transportation contingency fund. Transportation contingency allotments are not considered eligible expenses and, therefore, will not negatively impact transportation budget ratings. DPI Transportation Services will be trying to identify sources of additional funding to bolster the contingency fund in anticipation of these requests.

5. What maintenance should be performed on buses that were subjected to flooding?

A handout entitled "Servicing Buses After Water Damage" is available on the Pupil Transportation Web Page WWW.NCBUSSAFETY.ORG under "For Your Information".

6. Can TIMS be used to re-route buses when roads or bridges are closed?

Absolutely. The Transportation Information Management System geographic database can be modified to reflect the changed road conditions. Affected bus routes can be identified and new routes established. The best course of action is usually to do this in the "What-If?" database. A Technical Reference Guide has been prepared by the TIMS staff and is available on the Pupil Transportation Web Page WWW.NCBUSSAFETY.ORG under "Transportation Information Management System." The TIMS staff is ready to provide special assistance to LEAs that have to do special routing when school starts back after the flooding.

7. Is the county liable for damage to DWI vehicles?

No. The statutes are very clear: “Except for gross negligence or intentional misconduct, the county board of education shall not be liable to the owner or lienholder for damage to or loss of the motor vehicle or its contents, or to the owner of personal property in a seized vehicle, during the time the motor vehicle is being towed or stored”