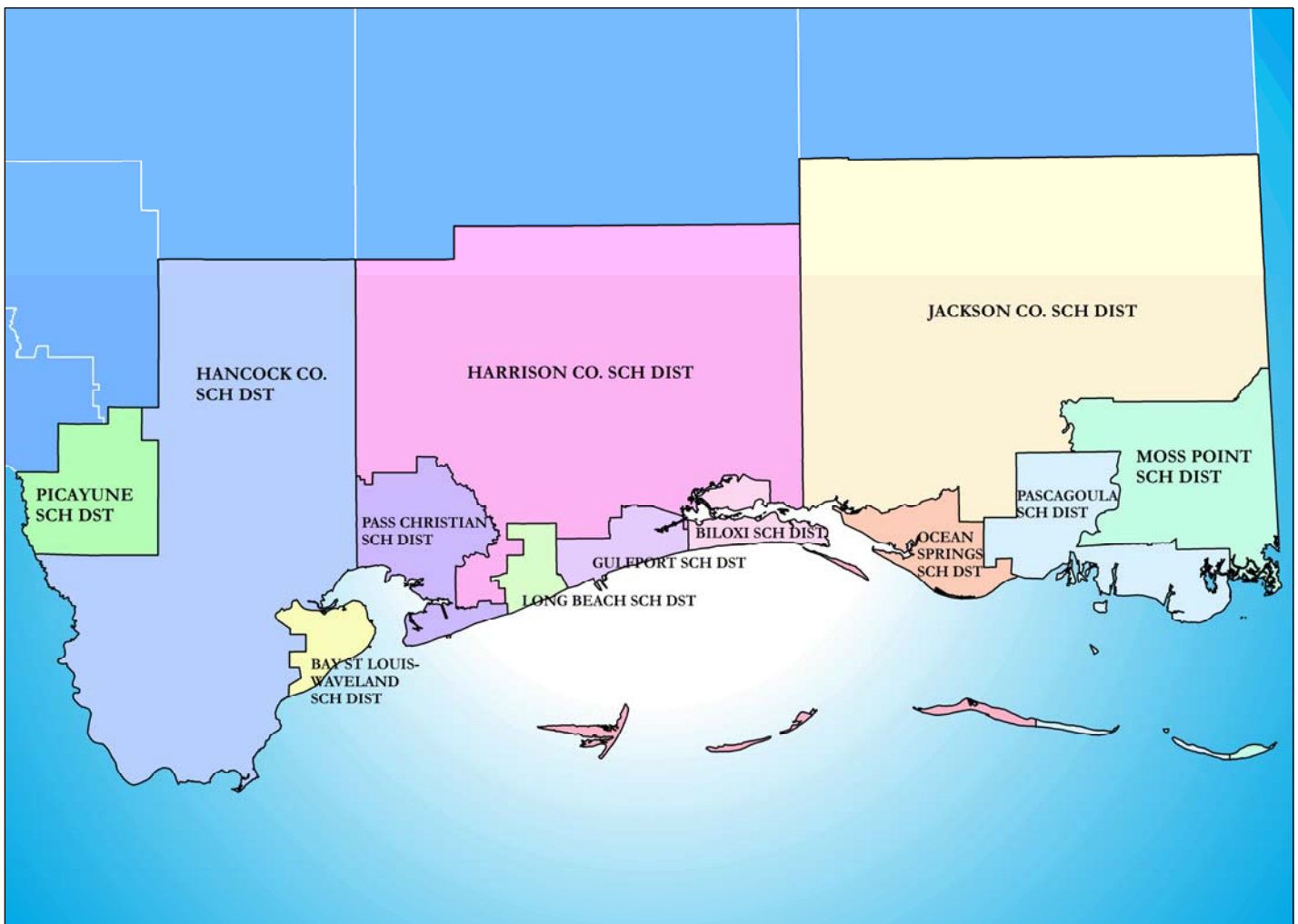


Special Report

A Look at Recovery, Roles, and Capacity of Mississippi Coastal School Districts Struggling and Rebounding After Hurricane Katrina

November 30, 2006



Bay Saint Louis/Waveland, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Pascagoula are the four primary school districts identified for field research. They are representative of Mississippi coastal school districts that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

**Local School District Personnel
Interviewed During Field Research**

Associate Superintendent Bay Saint Lewis/Waveland School District Rebecca Ladner
Director Federal Programs Bay Saint Lewis/Waveland School District Vicky Wescovich
Biloxi School District Superintendent Paul Tisdale
Gulfport School District Superintendent Glen East
Pascagoula School District Superintendent Wayne Rodolfich
Pass Christian School District Superintendent Sue Matheson
Pass Christian School District Technology Director Teresa Burton
Director of Personnel and Federal Programs Melinda Williams
Harrison County School District Superintendent Henry Arledge
Biloxi School District Counselor Herb Brown
Gulfport School District Counselor Denise Bush
Gulfport High School Administrative Assistant Tim Bellipanni
Gulfport Teacher and Parent Ms. Kelly Temple

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Sammy Wilson, MSIS Programmer for the Mississippi Department of Education
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Field Research and Preliminary Report Developed by:

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Stennis Institute of Government--Mississippi State University

Primary School District Directory

Bay St Louis/Waveland School District

201 Carroll Avenue
Bay St Louis, MS 39520
Phone: (228) 467-6621
Fax: (228) 466-4895

Bay - Waveland Middle School
600 Pine Street
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
Phone: (228) 463-0315
Fax: (228) 463-2681

Bay St. Louis High School
750 Blue Meadow Road
Bay St Louis, MS 39520
Phone: (228) 467-6611
Phone: (228) 466-0883

Second Street Elementary School
400 N Second Street
Bay St Louis, MS 39520
Phone: (228) 467-4052
Fax: (228) 466-0287

North Bay Elementary School
740 Dunbar Avenue E
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
Phone: (228) 467-4757
Fax: (228) 466-0286

Waveland Elementary School
1101 St. Joseph Street
Waveland, MS 39576
Phone: (228) 467-6630
Fax: (228) 466-0489

Biloxi Public School District

160 St Peters Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 374-1810
Fax: (228) 435-6289

Beauvoir Elementary School
2003 Dewey Lawrence Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 436-5131
Fax: (228) 388-4350

Biloxi High School
1424 Father Ryan Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 435-1421
Fax: (228) 435-1426

Dukate Elementary School
580 E Howard Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
Phone: (228) 432-7226
Fax: (228) 374-5819

Jeff Davis Elementary School
340 St Mary
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 436-5110
Fax: (228) 374-6837

Fernwood Jr High School
2329 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 436-5120
Fax: (228) 388-3840

Gorenflo Elementary School
260 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
Phone: (228) 436-3702
Fax: (228) 374-6224

Lopez Elementary School
140 St John
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 432-7783
Fax: (228) 374-6909

North Bay Elementary School
1825 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532
Phone: (228) 435-6166
Fax: (228) 436-5185

Michel Jr High School
1400 Father Ryan Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
Phone: (228) 435-4540
Fax: (228) 374-5119

Popps Ferry Elementary School
364 Nelson Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 436-5135
Fax: (228) 388-2313

R D Brown Vocational Center
P O Box 168
Biloxi, MS 39533
Phone: (228) 435-1421
Fax: (228) 436-5101

Gulfport School District

11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 865-4600
Fax: (228) 865-4718

Anniston Avenue Elementary
2314 Jones Street
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 896-6309
Fax: (228) 897-6033

Bayou View Elementary
4898 Washington Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 865-4625
Fax: (228) 865-1928

Bayou View Middle School
212 43rd Street
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 865-4633
Fax: (228) 867-1967

Central Elementary School
1043 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 865-4642
Fax: (228) 865-0281

Gulfport Central Middle School
1310 42nd Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 870-1035

Gaston Point Elementary
1526 Mills Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 865-4655
Fax: (228) 865-4657

Gulfport High School
100 Perry Street
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 896-7525
Fax: (228) 896-8281

Pass Road Elementary School
37 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 865-4658
Fax: (228) 865-4658

West Elementary School
4051 15th Street
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 870-1025
Fax: (228) 870-1032

28th Street Elementary
2810 34th Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone: (228) 865-4661
Fax: (228) 865.4672

The Learning Center
1215 Church Street
Gulfport, MS 39507
Phone: (228) 897-6045
Fax: (228) 897-6053

Pascagoula School District

1006 Communny Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39568
Phone: (228) 938-6491
Fax: (228) 938-6528

Arlington Heights Elementary School
3511 Arlington Street
Pascagoula, MS 39581
Phone: (228) 938-6552
Fax: (228) 938-6551

Beach Elementary School
633 Market Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6428
Fax: (228) 696-6619

Central Elementary School
1100 Dupont Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6559
Fax: (228) 938-6560

Cherokee Elementary School
4102 Scovel Road
Pascagoula, MS 39581
Phone: (228) 938-6547
Fax: (228) 938-6201

College Park Elementary
2617 Landier Road
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 522-8829
Fax: (228) 522-8830

William M Colmer Middle
3112 Eden Street
Pascagoula, MS 39581
Phone: (228) 938-6473
Fax: (228) 938-6593

Martin Bluff Elementary School
1306 Roy's Road
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228)-522-8850

Eastlawn Elementary School
2611 Ingalls Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6431
Fax: (228) 938-6433

Gautier Elementary School
505 Magnolia Tree Drive
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 522-8824
Fax: (228) 522-8825

Gautier Middle School
1920 Graveline Road
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 522-8806
Fax: (228) 522-8813

Gautier High School
4307 Gautier/Vancleave Road
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 522-8783
Fax: (228) 522-8788

Jackson Elementary School
3203 Lanier Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39581
Phone: (228) 938-6554
Fax: (228) 938-6218

Lake Elementary School
4503 Willow Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6422
Fax: (228) 696-6618

Pascagoula High School
1716 Tucker Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6443
Fax: (228) 938-6445

Trent Lott Middle School
2234 Pascagoula Street
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6465
Fax: (228) 938-6463

Singing River Elementary School
4601 Gautier/Vancleave Road
Gautier, MS 39553
Phone: (228) 522-8835
Fax: (228) 522-8839

Pascagoula Opportunity Center
1520 Tucker Avenue E
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Phone: (228) 938-6222
Fax: (228) 938-6210

Table of Contents

Study Methodology	iv	
Executive Summary	v	
Preliminary Special Report: A Look at Recovery, Roles, and Capacity of Mississippi Coastal School Districts Struggling and Rebounding After Hurricane Katrina		1
1.1. Introduction.....	1	
1.2. Reopening Schools Advanced Community Recovery Efforts.....	3	
1.3. Enrollment Is Trending Upward in Most Schools.....	8	
1.4. Counseling and Trauma Recovery Was and Continues to Be A Critical Need.....	15	
1.5. Schools Continued to Maintain the Instructional Focus After the Storm.....	19	
1.6. Physical Restoration Will Be Driven Largely by Federal Funds.	23	
1.7. Some Things Were Great!.....	29	
1.8. Some Things Need to Change.	30	
Appendix A: Federal Relief Fund Receipts And Expenditures By District	33	

Methodology

One of the first signs of progression toward a return to “normalcy” for devastated coastal regions was the opening of each public school district. With major flooding and wind damage and losses in the billions, each community school’s reopening became critical to a return to normalcy. With school in session, parents could move forward knowing their children were actively engaged and safe. Getting students back to school allowed trained teachers and staff to counsel students and families, helping them adjust to major changes in their everyday worlds.

This preliminary report: “A Look at the Recovery, Roles, and Capacity of Mississippi Coastal School Districts Struggling and Rebounding from Hurricane Katrina,” was compiled by the Stennis Institute of Government (SIG) to provide information for the GulfGov “Education Data/Analysis Special Report,” which is one of a series of special reports to accompany GulfGov semiannual overview update reports. The GulfGov Research Project is a three-year longitudinal field network study of a representative sample of state and local governments damaged by the Katrina and Rita hurricanes of 2005. The Research network for the project includes the Rockefeller Institute of Government, the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Louisiana Research Associates, the Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, and Jackson State University.

Over the course of the research, SIG field researchers collected and analyzed data, visited schools, and interviewed school officials and Mississippi Department of Education officials. Researchers analyzed conditions and issues in the communities studied, while guided by a standard format of open- and closed-ended research questions designed for the GulfGov Education Data/Analysis special project.

The original GulfGov report covered how Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated communities and irrevocably changed many of the coastal regions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The obvious degrees of damage and recovery in the coastal regions were categorized in the initial GulfGov study as areas that are struggling, areas that are rebounding, and areas that are growing.

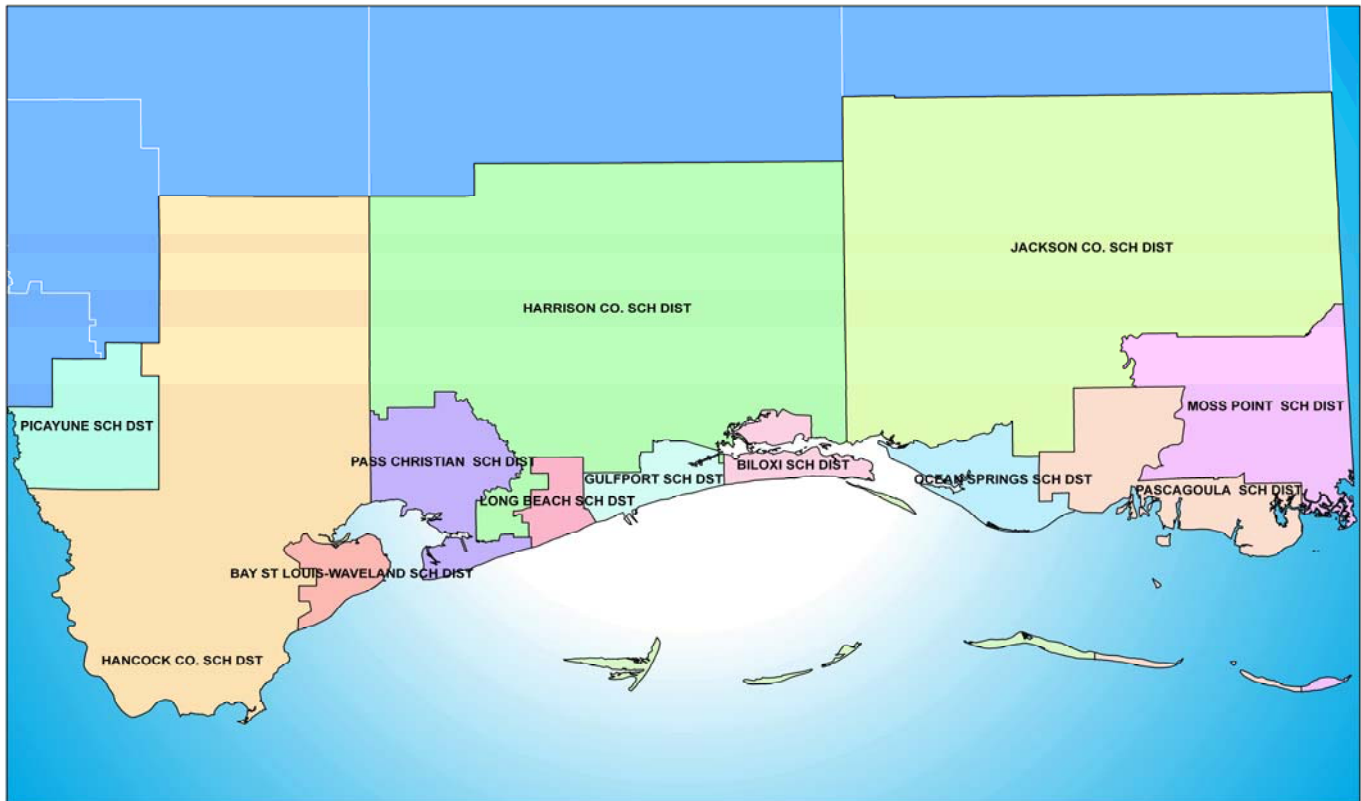
For this report, SIG researchers focused on the recovery efforts in the following Mississippi Coastal school districts: Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School. Although private schools also played an important role in the restoration of education services in the region, this report focuses on public school education because of its tie to local government.

Executive Summary

The goal of this special project is to provide a broad look at how Hurricane Katrina changed schools in affected communities across a wide spectrum of areas, including the impact on student enrollment, school personnel, facilities, instruction, nonprofits, the status of school recovery efforts, and how districts plan to rebuild for the future. In addition, the project will examine some of the hindrances to schools' ongoing recovery efforts. The jurisdictions chosen for the project are representative of areas that were devastated by the storm or that have benefited from them.

The Stennis Institute of Government (SIG) at Mississippi State University conducted field research by visiting schools, conducting interviews of public school personnel, and gathering data from the Mississippi Department of Education. This Preliminary Special Report focuses on Mississippi Coastal School Districts in “struggling” and “rebounding” regions impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Primary school districts identified for field research include: Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School. **Figure 1** illustrates the school districts located on Mississippi's Gulf Coast impacted by Hurricane Katrina's path of destruction on August 29, 2005.

Figure 1: School Districts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast



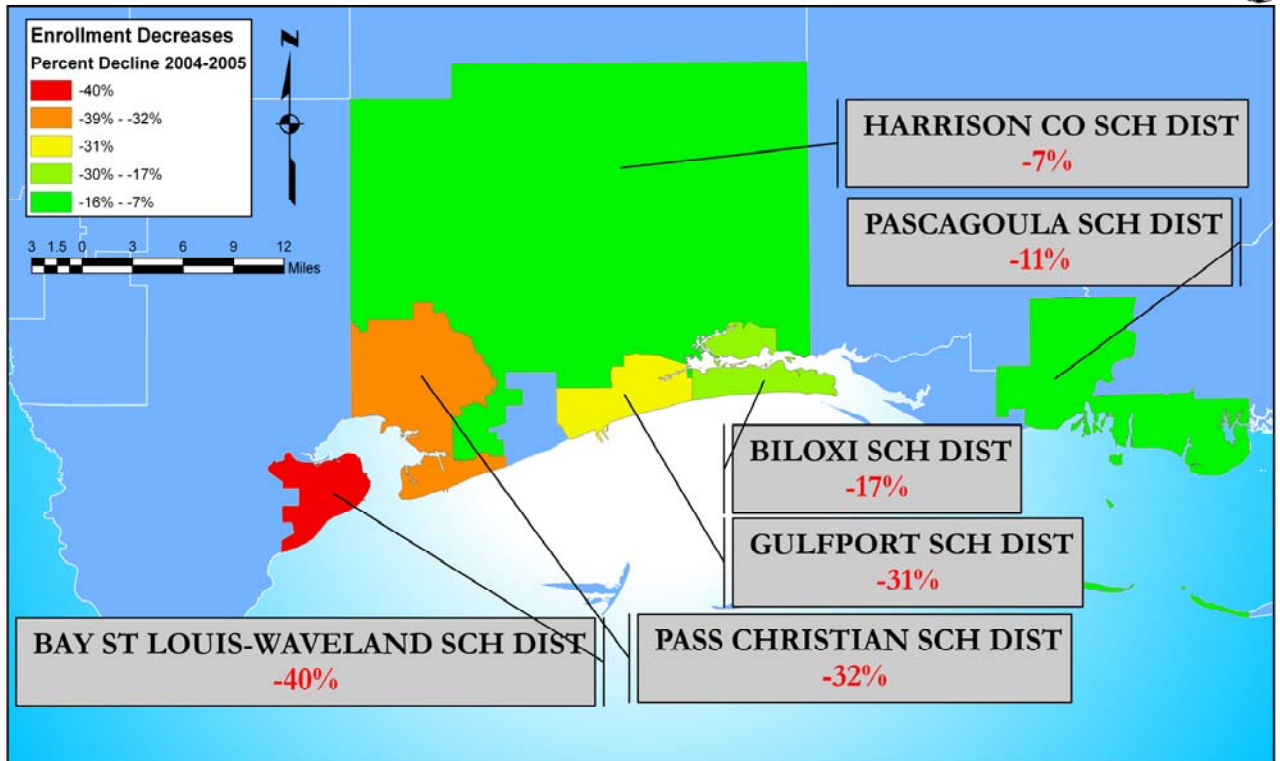
Hurricane Katrina destroyed entire communities with the heart of those communities being local schools. Timely reopening of schools lead the recovery efforts in communities ravaged by the storm. “Struggling” school districts suffered financially and were pressed to reopen schools as quickly as possible. Parents were desperate to get students back in classes in order to return them to some semblance of normalcy. Bay Saint Louis/Waveland school district first held classes in outside tents manned by volunteer teachers with just a few students. Eventually students moved to portable classrooms on former school properties adjacent to destroyed buildings. Damage to “rebounding districts” was extensive; however, many have completed construction punch lists, and student enrollment is returning to normal levels. Reopening of schools allowed trained teachers and staff to counsel students, helping them adjust to major changes in their everyday worlds. Communities came together to get schools back up and running so that students would be safe and actively engaged. Then, with schools in session, communities began to move forward.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	REOPENING DATE
Picayune School District	September-06
Jefferson Davis County School District	September-06
Biloxi Public School District	September-06
Gulfport School District	September-06
Moss Point School District	September-06
Ocean Springs School District	September-06
Harrison County School District	October-06
Jackson County School District	October-06
Long Beach School District	October-06
Pascagoula School District	October-06
Pass Christian School District	October-06
Hancock County School District	October-06
Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District	November-06

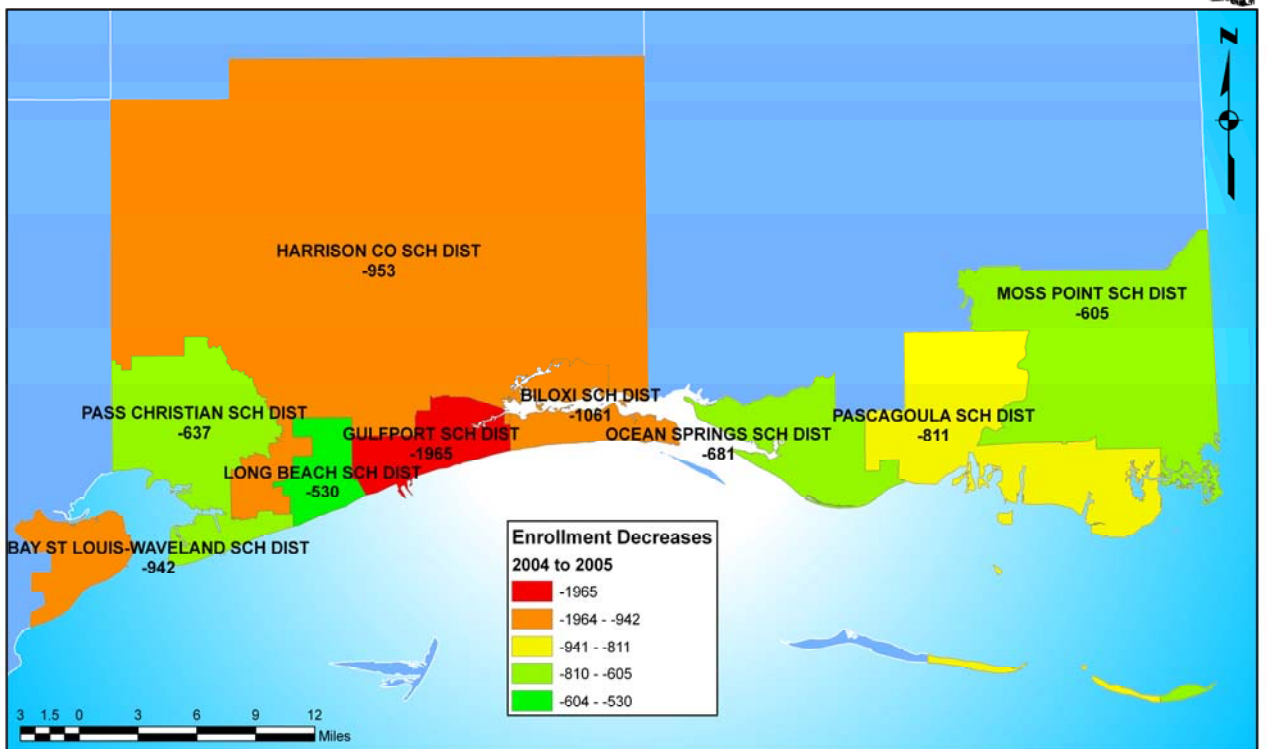
Trauma recovery and mental health counseling services were offered by volunteer counselors and counselors employed by districts with grant and federal funds. Schools served as counseling centers offering extensive counseling services to children and families, helping students to process feelings while restoring a sense of safety, and reducing anxiety levels. Private licensed counselors and licensed school counselors continue to provide services in most districts, ranging from psychosocial and trauma assessment to group therapy and family support. These services help students, teachers, and families cope as they move through the various stages of recovery. Counseling services are still available in most districts due to grant and federal funds; however, the degree to which these services are being utilized was not determined.

Enrollment declined in schools hit by the storm. In 2004-2005 enrollment levels declined in coastal schools due to Katrina. School district losses ranged from **-300** to **-1600** students with districts losing from **7%** to **40%** of their 2004-2005 enrollment levels. In 2005-2006, enrollment seemed slow in recovering in some districts with only **25%** to **32%** of their 2004-2005 levels. Others districts seem to be recovering more rapidly with only **3%** to **17%** fewer students than 2004-2005. The districts that are rebounding appear to have some affordable housing and jobs available. Districts that appear to be lagging in enrollment recovery have very little affordable housing, if any. Also some families have moved to higher ground where housing is available and affordable and the risk of hurricane damage to property is less likely. **Figures 2-5 and Table 1** on the following page, represent enrollment data from the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Management Information Systems.

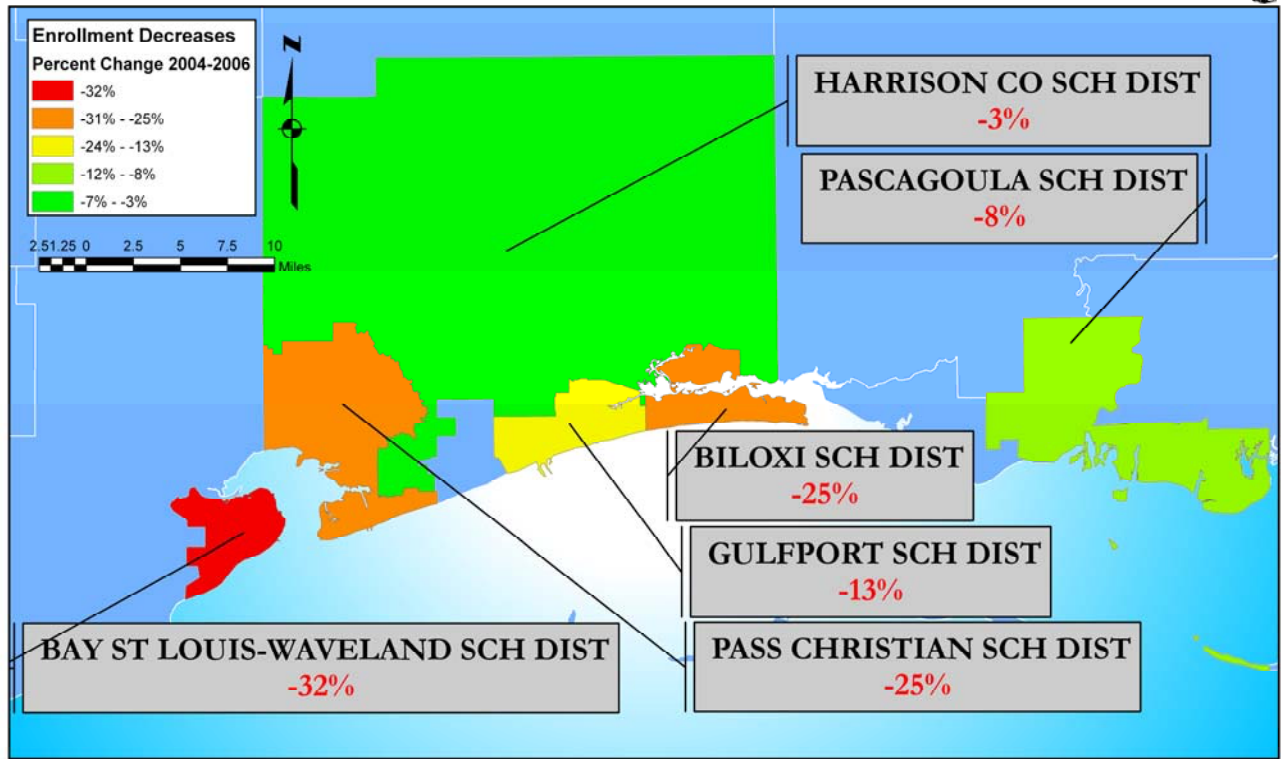
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Decrease from 2004 enrollment to 2005 Enrollment



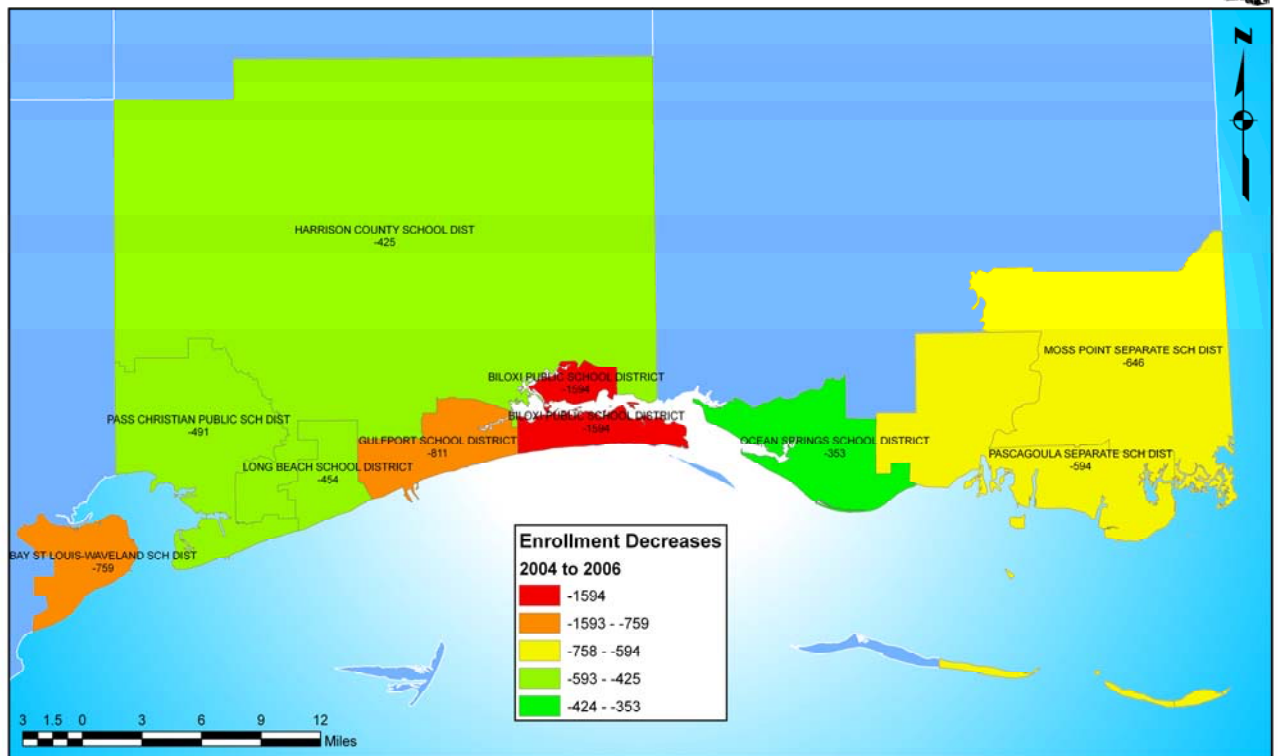
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Decrease from 2004 enrollment to 2005 Enrollment



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Decrease from 2004 enrollment to 2006 Enrollment



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Decrease from 2004 enrollment to 2006 enrollment



Pre- & Post-Katrina Enrollment for Six Mississippi Coastal School Districts

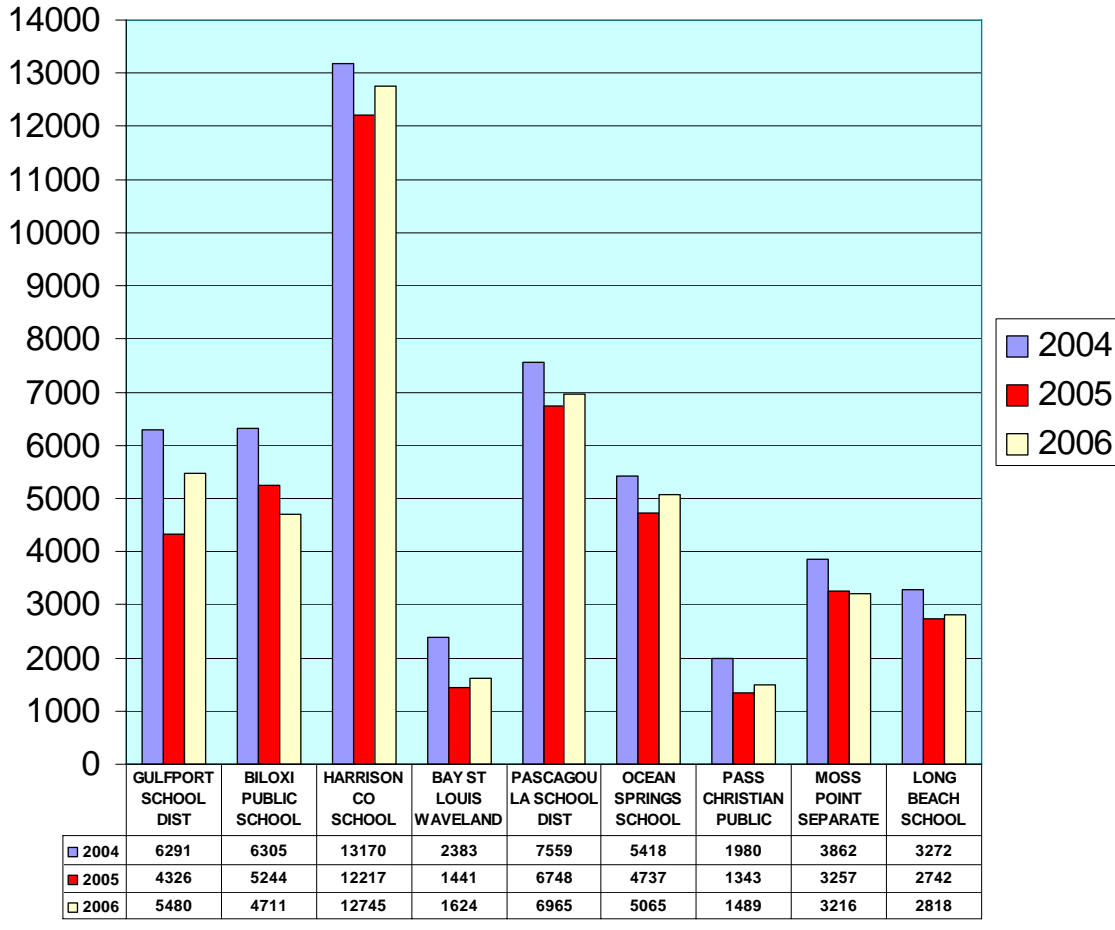


Table 1: Mississippi School Districts Impacted by Hurricane Katrina

SIX MS COASTAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS	2004	2005	2006	2005 DECLINE	%Loss 2005	2006 DECLINE	%Loss 2006
GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	6291	4326	5480	-1965	-31%	-811	-13%
BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	6305	5244	4711	-1061	-17%	-1594	-25%
HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	13170	12217	12745	-953	-7%	-425	-3%
BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST	2383	1441	1624	-942	-40%	-759	-32%
PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	7559	6748	6965	-811	-11%	-594	-8%
OCEAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DIST	5418	4737	5065	-681	-13%	-353	-7%
PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	1980	1343	1489	-637	-32%	-491	-25%
MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	3862	3257	3216	-605	-16%	-646	-17%
LONG BEACH SCHOOL DIST	3272	2742	2818	-530	-16%	-454	-14%

The Mississippi Accountability Standards measure school's performance using a formula that incorporates student level academic achievement and academic growth data. However, only students enrolled at least 70% of the school year are counted in the formula. Using schools' reported performance levels, Katrina appears to have had no significant impact on student achievement in coastal schools since most coastal schools were able to maintain school performance levels without the use of waivers, with the exception of three Biloxi Elementary Schools. School districts missed anywhere from nineteen days to two months of school following the storm. Several districts made up missed days by cancelling breaks and holidays and by adding extra hours to the school day. Pass Christian school actually converted from a 4 X 4 Block schedule to a six period day, allowing them to make up the class time so seniors could graduate. Student dropout rates are also a concern for schools across the nation, while the following questions remain unanswered:

- How has dislocation of students and families impacted student achievement?
- Will more students drop out of school due to issues raised by to Katrina?
- Will more high school students dropout to take on jobs created due to Katrina recovery efforts?

The state is moving closer to determining the actual number of students dropping out of school using the new cohort dropout formula. One superintendent expressed real concern over his district's 50% dropout rate. When students drop out of school they diminish their ability to acquire long term gainful employment. High numbers of students dropping out negatively impacts a community's economic growth potential. Dropping out also diminishes a student's chance of completing high school requirements for a high school diploma. These growing concerns over high dropout rates are evidenced in recent dropout prevention legislation passed by the Mississippi legislature just last year. Unofficial estimates of the 4-year dropout, completion, and graduation rates for the full cohort of 2001/2002 ninth graders were recently released by the Mississippi Department of Education. The high cohort dropout rates in some districts have generated concerns from school officials, business leaders, and local officials. The state is closer to determining the actual number of students dropping out of school using the new cohort dropout formula based upon student level data. The current data is only preliminary. Future longitudinal study is required to determine if issues related to Katrina have a significant impact on student dropout rates in Mississippi.

Modular classrooms have allowed many "struggling" districts to reopen for now. What does the future hold? While many districts made the decision to temporarily close some schools and relocate students in temporary classrooms, tough decisions remain. The initial process of deciding whether or not to use temporary classrooms is easy when a district is trying to quickly reopen schools. However, in "struggling" districts like Bay Saint Louis and Pass Christian where so many schools were destroyed, the road to recovery will take much planning, preparation, financing, and time to rebuild.

Statewide, according to figures reported by the Mississippi Department of Education, initially after the storm more than 466 classroom units were requested by more than 300 schools damaged or destroyed by Katrina. These plain, mobile classrooms meant everything to these school districts because they allowed them to reopen schools temporarily. Superintendents that are utilizing mobile classrooms and offices indicated that the buildings allowed them to reopen school and bought them time to make decisions about damaged school facilities.

FEMA released a report on September 13, 2006, “FEMA Funds Nearly \$12 Million More for Mississippi School Rebuilding Efforts,” which indicated that more than \$175 million has been obligated by FEMA for school repair and construction in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. These grants to assist school reconstruction total: \$48.9 million for 19 schools in Hancock County; \$61.1 million for 51 schools in Harrison County; \$44.3 million for 36 schools in Jackson County; and \$21.4 million for 16 schools in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi. The FEMA grants provide 100 percent of the rebuilding and repair costs, less insurance proceeds. These school funds are administered by MEMA.

Pass Christian School District Superintendent Sue Matheson shared a draft plan for a new state-of-the-art multipurpose K-8 facility, that has a courtyard and facilities that the community would also be able to use. She shared, “This plan will allow us to maximum the use of school facilities. Community agencies will partner with the district and also utilize the facilities.” The multipurpose facility plan was developed at a national leadership conference that Dr. Matheson recently attended.

Pass Christian School District now houses all of its K-8 classes on the eight-acre Delisle Elementary campus, using mobile classrooms. The picture below was taken from the parking lot of the Pass Christian Delisle Elementary School. Delisle was the only elementary building to withstand the torrents of the storm surge and subsequent flooding. The mobile units allowed the Pass Christian schools to reopen and while the district assesses damages, process insurance and FEMA claims, and complete strategic plan for rebuilding the school district’s infrastructure. The picture below was taken on the Delisle campus to illustrate the use of mobile classrooms.



Conclusion

Undoubtedly, Katrina created trauma for school districts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The first trauma was the immediate crisis created when the hurricane made landfall. The second hardship was the difficulty of getting teachers and students back in school while juggling their own personal trauma. Then school districts had to function for extensive periods without communications, without technology, and in some cases, with all their records destroyed or lost. Teachers were affected as lost they all of their lesson plans and teaching materials. Having no technology and losing records made it difficult to deal with various government and insurance agencies that often gave mixed messages regarding federal policies. Interpretations varied from person to person and from agency to agency, especially within FEMA. However, school districts received tremendous support from local people helping and working together to respond to the immediate crisis, and these people are still helping out at schools to keep facilities and equipment functioning.

The trauma of lost records continues to be dealt with, each time someone calls in to get a copy of a high school diploma. Some districts such as Harrison County are making plans to store their school records electronically in the future using scanning capabilities to store vital records in electronic files.

One superintendent expressed a commonly held opinion of FEMA, "FEMA was almost impossible to deal with. I finally assigned a district principal to deal with FEMA because he was the calmest person in the district and nothing seems to faze him. He manages to remain calm when FEMA says do one thing this time, and something else the next." The efforts of FEMA representatives were praised for their timely efforts, efficiency, and for demonstrating compassion and patience while working with local residents to solve problems. The efforts of State Superintendent of Education Hank Bounds were also praised by superintendents participating in the study. They specifically mentioned his many personal visits to the coast, his regular phone calls, and his relentless efforts to acquire the needed funds from state and federal governments that have allowed them to function during the past year.

Federal agencies must find better ways to work together. There seems to be limited consistency in the interpretation of federal guidelines, leaving school districts bogged down in paperwork, halting their planning efforts, and postponing building repairs, reconstruction, and related disaster recovery efforts. Superintendent Glen East from Gulfport shared, "Mississippi officials helped school districts acquire needed federal aid and distributed state aid efficiently. The financial aid allowed districts to implement recovery efforts. If one thing could improve, it would be that all the bureaucracies need to come together and synchronize their policies. Federal guidelines also need to be streamlined and there needs to be more consistency between agencies. FEMA especially needs to give more consistent messages across the board."

Superintendent Paul Tisdale from Biloxi shared the same story of FEMA representatives trying to do the right thing, “They think what they are telling you is correct but then they always need clarification. Someone else always has to approve and this is what slows the process down. School districts lost valuable time. Every time a new FEMA representative appeared at the school we had to start all over with paperwork and explaining our needs.” All the superintendents admitted that they had learned to wait to turn in requests and reports to FEMA until “the right” FEMA agent came along. When “the right” FEMA agent finally came to a school, one who seemed reasonable and considerate, then they flooded them with paperwork to make sure they could get all they could while “the right person” was in the district. The bottom line message from superintendents was that FEMA needs to get it together.

Traumatic stress, missed class time, family crises, property loss, unemployment, new job opportunities, and other issues, no doubt, impacted students lives in the aftermath of one of our nation’s greatest natural disasters, Hurricane Katrina. It would appear, at least on the surface, that student achievement and success rates in the affected schools would plummet. However, that did not appear to be the case at the close of school last year. Schools continued to focus on excellence and they diversified instruction to meet the needs of the students that remained on the coast. Based upon mandatory state tests scores for tests given in December 2005 and April 2006, most students grew academically. However, it is significant to note that only students enrolled in the district for 70% of the year counted toward the school’s performance level.

Most schools maintained local performance levels without the use of “No Child Left Behind” waivers, with the exception of three Biloxi schools. As students return to their former schools and remain in school for at least 70% of the year, their test scores will figure into the formula for their individual schools based upon the timing and duration of their enrollment with a given school. Additional longitudinal research is needed to determine the future impact of Katrina on student achievement.

When students drop out of school they diminish their ability to acquire long term gainful employment. Unofficial estimates of the 4-year dropout, completion, and graduation rates for the full cohort of 2001/2002 ninth graders is available for the first time in Mississippi and new legislation regarding dropout prevention efforts was approved during the last legislative session. Longitudinal study is required to determine if issues related to Katrina have a significant impact on student dropout rates in Mississippi.

The leadership of Mississippians, Superintendent of Education Hank Bounds and Governor Haley Barbour, has helped to transform public schools disaster recovery efforts. Prior to being the newly appointed State Superintendent, Dr. Bounds was the superintendent of Pascagoula Schools. According to all six coastal superintendents interviewed, Dr. Bounds remained in continual contact with schools

on the coast, providing information, participating in meetings, responding to inquiries, and sharing and planning strategies along with Mississippi policymakers and national leaders.

Congress passed the “Hurricane Education Recovery Act” in December of 2005, legislation that authorized three new grant programs to assist school districts and schools in meeting the educational needs of students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and in helping schools that were closed as a result of the hurricanes to reopen as quickly and effectively as possible. The grants include:

- Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations
- Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students
- Assistance for Homeless Youth.

In Mississippi, 466 classroom units were requested by more than 300 schools damaged or destroyed by Katrina. The buildings allowed districts to reopen and they are buying them time to make decisions about damaged school facilities.

More than \$175 million has been obligated by FEMA for school repair and construction in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. These grants will assist school reconstruction. The FEMA grants provide 100 percent of the rebuilding and repair costs, less insurance proceeds. These school funds are administered by MEMA.

According to charts in Appendix A, the amounts and kinds of federal relief funds received and expended by school district varies, but the bulk of funds have gone to the school districts where Katrina made landfall. Some of these coastal school districts even with the federal aid promised, are currently in a financial crisis. More financial aid will be required to see them through the financial storm. It will take years for these school districts to recovery.

The need for preparedness, the ability to mobilize, and the organization to act increases with information. Educational leaders on the coast led much of the state’s recovery effort. These stories must be recorded and the lessons they learned documented to better prepare for future disasters. As everyone knows, if you live on the coast, you are going to be impacted by hurricanes. In the days ahead, we must make note of all the lessons learned and use them to create more effective school and community disaster preparation plans. Policymakers and education leaders must share the useful information and examination, analysis, and dissemination of the information to improve future policy options.

Special Research Project

A Preliminary Look at Recovery, Roles, and Capacity of Mississippi Coastal School Districts Struggling and Rebounding After Hurricane Katrina

1. Introduction

With school personnel hard hit themselves, the first challenge for school districts was bringing the teachers and staff back to prepare for students to return to school. Coastal school personnel responded to the call even though it meant that their own efforts to restore their homes came to a standstill, returning to school sites where schools were totally demolished or otherwise covered in knee deep mud, and salvaging what they could. One by one, in most jurisdictions, the public schools were among the first to return to business, in some instances holding classes in tents and a mobile computer lab manned by volunteers through non-profit relief efforts. Each school's official reopening came while many school personnel were still homeless requiring teachers to help each other cover classes when emergency calls came in to meet with insurance representatives, FEMA, and others. School districts were as lenient as possible while staying within the parameters of state law and federal requirements of contracts. The continued recovery of school districts is highly dependent upon their ability to maneuver through processes and tons of paperwork to acquire the needed recovery funds from FEMA, insurance claims, and state and federal funding sources.

Gulf coast educators, students, and families continue to demonstrate incredible courage, tenacity, and resiliency while seeking to reestablish their lives after Katrina. A Gulfport high school teacher and parent of two elementary students, Ms. Kelly Temple, shared that for the most part, the students are coping better than the adults but their emotions still vary from day to day. Ms. Temple shared that many students and families are still living in FEMA trailers or with family and friends in extremely close quarters with limited opportunity for privacy and quiet time. She expressed her concern over the somewhat noticeable increase in teen pregnancies and how she wonders if it might be because of the close living quarters and trauma induced by the storm. She shared her belief that many students feel pressured at home because parents have to make career changes while having to become experts in the language of insurance policies and FEMA worksheets. She was also concerned about the number of students she knows that stayed in the area to graduate that are still living with friends, while their parents moved away to find a job elsewhere.

This high school teacher shared how the simple day to day things that the students used to do have changed dramatically. Things like going down to the beach to hang out (*many of their favorite hangouts washed away*), going out to eat at their favorite restaurants off of Highway 90 (*these no longer exist*), or simply meeting at a friends house to watch television (*small FEMA trailers replace their former homes*).

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Biloxi High School Counselor, Denise Bush, talked about how the benevolence of people has changed students' outlook about community service. "We didn't have any idea what we were going to do about prom last year, but we were able to have it at the Woolmarket Community Center thanks to the community's support and the benevolence of others. Joyce Jesko from Pennsylvania called and told us not to worry, that she was going to ship 400 gowns, 100 pairs of shoes, and cosmetics to Biloxi. Bucks County Pennsylvania sent eight chefs to Biloxi to cook dinner for every prom couple. They did it all for us. People helped us in everyway you can imagine, house supplies, gift cards, clothes, you name it they came through for us." The students' participation in the school's Key Club service learning projects have more than double this year.

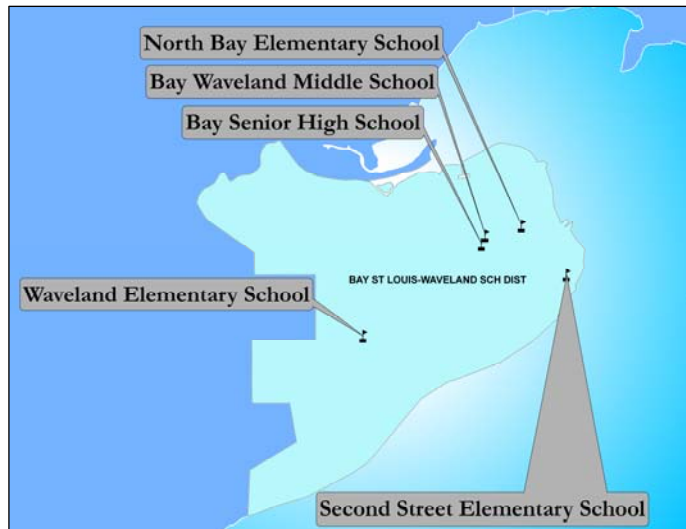
School district personnel on the coast expressed a tremendous sense of gratitude to the many volunteers, churches, businesses, and agencies that provided support and assistance immediately following the storm, and they are especially grateful to those individuals that continue to offer support and resources toward their recovery efforts. Although it was difficult for teachers and students to return to school so quickly, especially with so many having lost their homes, their valuables, and in many instances the entire school building and property, the mere return to the established routine of school helped students and

families to cope with the trauma. The picture to the right is of the Pascagoula recreation center where volunteers continue to help out with recovery efforts. The pictures below were taken on Highway 90 between Biloxi and Gulfport. Businesses flourished on the beach front highway prior to Katrina; however, not the primary business is reconstruction.



2. Reopening Schools Advanced Community Recovery Efforts.

The Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School District (BSLW) is located in the southeast corner of Hancock County on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of Bay Saint Louis and the schools were especially hard hit. Before the storm, Bay Saint Louis was a beautiful beachside community, defined by its many historic



homes and charming downtown. However, when Katrina hit the Gulf Coast with 125 mph winds and a 25-foot storm surge, most of Hancock County was swamped with three feet of sea water for roughly 10 hours. Hurricane Katrina hit rural Hancock County, Miss., with stronger wind and higher water than anywhere else along the Gulf Coast. In Hancock County more than half of the 19,000 homes were destroyed along with most public buildings and businesses.

All the district's school facilities took on water from the storm surge or from extensive roof damage. This contaminated buildings allowing mold and mildew to grow and spread to furniture, walls, ceilings, and A/C ductwork. Mechanical equipment was damaged or destroyed by the salt water. The district's computer hardware including the infrastructure for the wide and local area networks was destroyed beyond repair. Anything made of paper was contaminated with mold and mildew. Legs of furniture began rusting immediately, ceilings sagged and floor tile buckled from humidity and water. The loss to buildings and contents was estimated at \$40M. Insurance, FEMA, and MEMA will cover some costs but not all.

"A speedy reopening of school in tents and eBuses allowed Bay Saint Louis and Waveland students to feel safe and keep busy," said Associate Superintendent Rebecca Ladner. The Pearson Foundation allowed The Community College Foundation to bring the eBus resource to the affected area of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Serving the Waveland and Bay St. Louis School District, the eBus was a component of a temporary "tent school" established at a former athletic complex. Pearson colleagues and other volunteers established a four-part curriculum offering access to computer technology, arts and crafts, physical education and reading. The eBus is equipped with 12 computer workstations, high-speed satellite Internet technology, and the latest educational software for children. In early November, the eBus moved to North Bay Elementary as children in the area were placed in mobile classrooms. At the site composed of mobile units; the eBus continued to serve the Waveland and Bay St. Louis school district. Over 40% of the North Bay Elementary School's student body participated in the former "tent school".

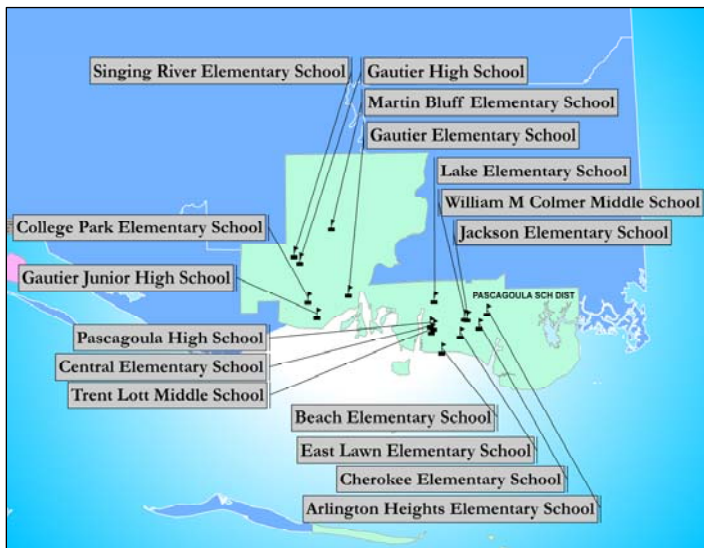
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On any given day, it was common to see children singing the alphabet as they progressed through the digital curriculum. Children who visited the eBus were also able to access the onboard library of Penguin books. When the eBus left the area in December, Pearson donated educational software to the schools to use to help bolster the rebuilding of the schools technology infrastructure.

Having the tent school up and manned by volunteers allowed more than 200 teachers and school staff to return to work on November 1st to begin organizing their new mobile classrooms for the first day of school. On November 7, 2005, Bay St. Louis/Waveland students returned to former school sites occupying **60 portable classroom units** furnished by FEMA. Students have finally relocated to the middle school building. The Alternative School that was destroyed now occupies the mobile classrooms on the middle school campus. The high school is also moving back into parts of the high school building.

Now fourteen months after the storm, much of historic downtown is still all but gone. Roughly 60 percent of residents' homes were completely destroyed or severely damaged so most still live with families or in trailers on their property. Of the 148 teachers who returned to the Bay Saint Louis-Waveland School District, more than half still live in FEMA-supplied trailers.

Pascagoula School District (PSD) is located in the southeast corner of Mississippi between the cities of Gulfport/Biloxi, MS and Mobile, AL in Jackson county, along with three other public K-12 school districts, Ocean Springs, Moss Point, and Jackson County



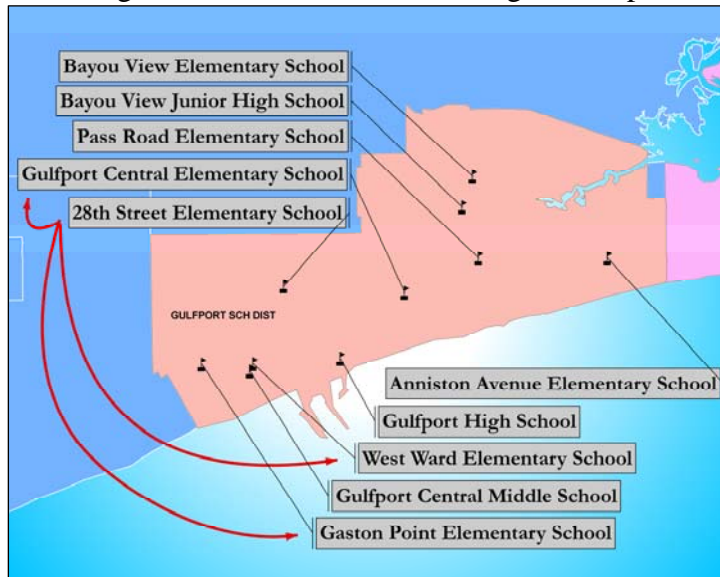
School District, and seven private or parochial schools that, combined, serve a K-12 enrollment of over 25,000. Jackson County is also the home of a branch campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and the Gulf Coast branch of the University of Southern Mississippi. Overall, Jackson County's population has not changed dramatically as a result of Katrina and its overall economy is rapidly rebounding from the impact.

Hurricane Katrina devastated the city and the schools were especially hard hit sustaining \$26 million in damages. As the city flooded, school buildings and homes were destroyed forcing residents to evacuate. Just prior to the hurricane, Superintendent Rodolfich announced to everyone that schools would be closed on Monday. Little did anyone know that it would be six weeks before schools could reopen on October 6. Following the

storm, saltwater stood in most of Pascagoula's schools at a level of three feet and higher. The schools were severely damaged and furniture, technology, library and text books, band instruments, uniforms, and athletic equipment were lost. With their own homes destroyed and families misplaced, PSD school personnel and volunteers worked relentlessly to get school buildings ready to reopen as quickly as possible to regain some sense of normalcy for students and families. By the end of September, most students, teachers, and staff were back in Pascagoula, with the vast majority moving in with relatives and friends all over town. A thousand or more families moved onto a cruise ship temporarily brought in by the FEMA.

Gulfport School District (GSD) is located on the south central section of Harrison County between Ocean Springs and Biloxi. Gulfport is the second largest city, populationwise, in Mississippi. Gulfport was hit by the strong east side of Hurricane Katrina that flooded and destroyed much of the city. The damage was greater than the city had encountered by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

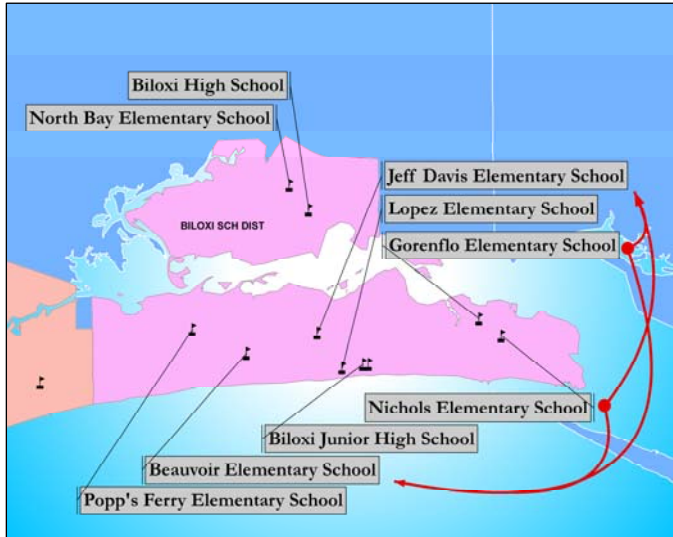
Gulfport High School students returned to school on Monday, September 26, nineteen days after the storm, with all other students returning to schools in the district the following week, October 3. According to Gulfport School District Superintendent Glen



East, "Gulfport lost one elementary school, 28th Street Elementary, due to Katrina." Currently there are six functioning elementary schools in the district. While 28th Street Elementary is being rebuilt, the district chose not to use portable building. For the present time, they are reassigned to three elementary schools located nearby which include: Central, Gaston Point, and West Elementary Schools.

The district's technology center that was located on the beach was totally destroyed, and this caused major problems for this large school district. In order to complete all of the Post-Katrina reports, the district had to pull hard copy records and tabulate data by hand. Due to the loss of the district's technology infrastructure, teachers, principals, counselors, and district personnel lost access to MSIS, the state's student level data base system that is used to track attendance, test scores, discipline, contact information, students' schedules, personnel data and other critical components of school operations. They also lost access to electronic communications, the student progress monitoring system, and other critical computerized programming. Electronic communications and electronic instructional processes were crippled until the district's technology infrastructure could finally be relocated and replaced.

Biloxi School District (BSD) wasted no time in preparing to get students back into classrooms, and reopened schools on September 26, just nineteen days after the storm. Biloxi had 1,400 families that were living at least two families to a house after the storm and that number is probably half that now. School district personnel returned to their schools working alongside volunteers, including parents and students to return their schools to operational. Gorenflo and Nichols Elementary schools received severe damage and had to be gutted and renovated before they could house students again. They



remain closed for repair and are scheduled to reopen on December 4, 2006. Students that originally attended these schools have been temporarily relocated to two other schools in the district, Beauvoir and Jeff Davis Elementary. The relocation allowed students to return to school less than a month after Katrina.

According to Biloxi Superintendent Paul Tisdale, the thing that helped them the most was the Seabees (Naval Construction Mobile Battalion) in Gulfport right after the storm. Superintendent Tisdale shared, "The Harrison County School Superintendent, Henry Arledge, immediately contacted the Seabees and ask them to help us out in Biloxi. The Seabees were the first to pitch in and help, sending a team to each school to move the debris and make campuses safe. The Seabees, our staff, and volunteers allowed Biloxi schools to reopen a week ahead of schedule. City employees were working to get the city infrastructure back up, so the Seabees and their equipment made a big difference. We regrouped, and except for the two closed elementary schools, we are, for the most part, in very good shape."

Biloxi schools reopened quickly but with all the power outages, the school staff had a difficult time getting out the word. Even though school district staff went on television every two weeks to update the community about the status of the schools, district telephone lines were inundated with calls from parents and volunteers.

Superintendent Tisdale shared, "Students' parents can't work if they're worrying about their children. Biloxi schools provided a safe haven during this difficult time. Superintendents are required to make tough decisions based upon what they believe to be in the best interest of students, parents and the community, and with so many compounding issues, making the right decisions is not easy. The decision to go ahead and relocate students to other schools so that classes could resume as quickly as possible was a decision that we felt had to be made in the best interest of our parents, our students, and our community. Not everyone was happy with this decision."

Summary Analysis of the Vital Role of Reopening Schools

With their own homes destroyed and families misplaced, coastal school personnel and volunteers worked relentlessly to reopen schools as quickly as possible which allowed students and families to regain some sense of normalcy. Having schools back in session bolstered community recovery efforts. By the end of November, most students, teachers, and staff were in school whether in modular classrooms on former school sites, or in repaired school buildings. Volunteers quickly removed debris so that schools could be rewired, repainted, and renovated. Hundreds of volunteers worked to reopen schools. Educators sacrificed, putting aside their personal recovery efforts, to return to school and engage students in learning. The public outcry of parents and officials generated the leverage to get what was needed to reopen schools. Some suggest that because so much was down so quickly, that full recovery was hampered. With hundreds of temporary mobile units now dotting so many coastal school yards, continued influence is needed to make sure that schools fully recover.

Mobile Classrooms Allowed Many Coastal School Districts to Reopen

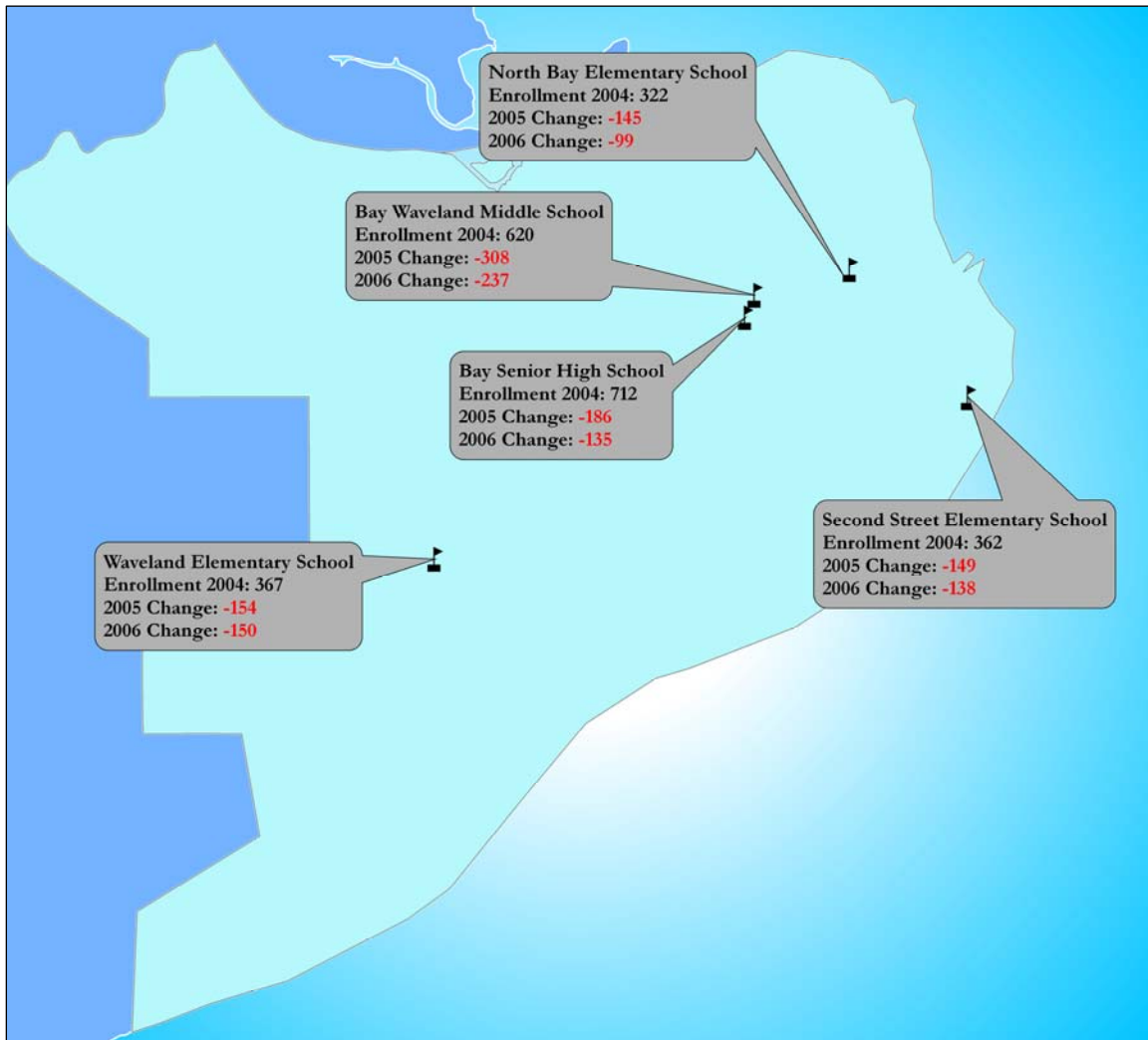


One of Many FEMA Trailer Parks on the Mississippi Coast



3. Enrollment Is Trending Upward in Most Schools.

Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School District at one time had between 95% and 97 % of their population displaced. On the day that students returned to school, November 7th, only 30% of the students returned. The district's enrollment has since returned to approximately 68% of Pre-Katrina enrollment levels. Before Katrina, Second Street Elementary had 362 students enrolled. Today, only 59% have returned, although according to Associate Superintendent Rebecca Ladner, new students are registering almost every day. Last year, North Bay Elementary enrollment dropped to 45%, Waveland Elementary to 42%, and Bay Waveland Middle School to 50%. 73% of Bay High School students returned. The following chart depicts last year's and this year's enrollment shifts.



Mobile classrooms now cover the school yards, and sit in the shadow of former buildings. The district employs about the same number of teachers as last year. The first things teachers and counselors faced as schools reopened, was discerning the status of students discerning the number of students living in tents, homeless, etc. Most teachers lost

almost everything and had to recreate lesson plans and instructional tools without the aid of computer technology that was also lost in the storm. Most of the district’s students (96%) now qualify to eat free while prior to the storm, only 60% qualified for the free and reduced lunch program. The district’s tax base revenue is projected to be 50 to 65% less than previous years, and until families rebuild and businesses reopen, school enrollment may remain below Pre-Katrina levels. Although students are located in 60 mobile classrooms on school sites, the grade configurations for individual schools remain the same.

- North Bay and Waveland Elementary Community Schools (grades K-3)
- Second Street Elementary School (grades 4 & 5)
- Bay-Waveland Middle School (grades 6 - 8)
- Bay High School (grades 9 - 12)
- Bay-Waveland Alternative School (grades 4 - 12)

Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School District	Total #	Shifts Since 2004-2005
Elementary Schools	3	In Mobile Classrooms
Middle Schools	1	AS Mobile Classrooms
High Schools	1	Mobile Classrooms
Enrollment 2004-2005	2383	
Enrollment 2005-2006	1441	-942 students
Enrollment 2006-2007	1624	-759 Students
Number of Teachers	2004 – 170 2005 – 158 2006 – 158	

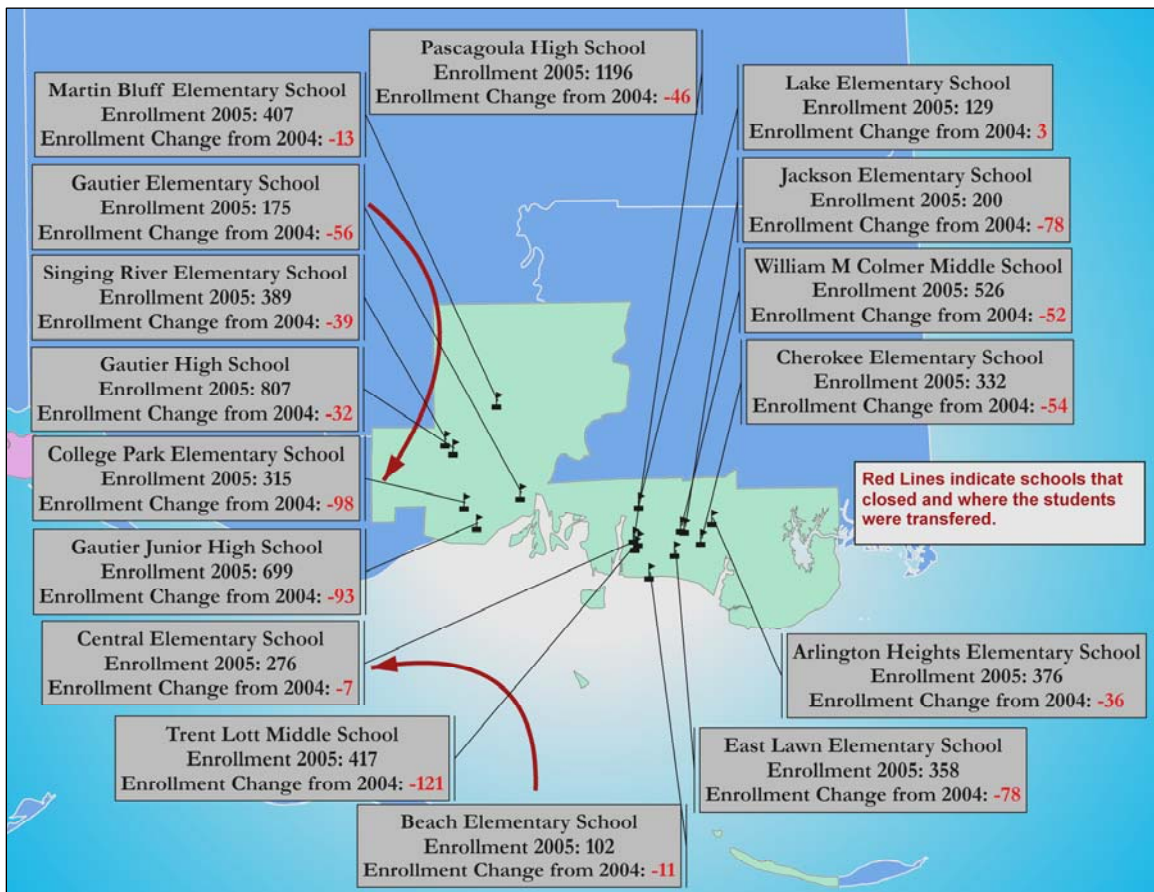
Pascagoula School District enrollment has declined but is definitely in an upward trend according to Superintendent Wayne Rodolfich. “Students are enrolling on a daily basis, with many former students returning and new students relocating to the area. The English Language Learner (ELL) population increased from 191 students to approximately 283, so we have hired additional ELL teachers. Our population has shifted, and we have purchased additional trailers to accommodate students where we have lost classroom space in Gautier. We have retained our teachers, shifting teachers and staff within the district to maintain an appropriate student-teacher ratio for optimum student achievement. Ninety percent of our community was under water during Katrina so everyone who lived here was significantly impacted. All the PSD leadership team’s and school board members’ homes were flooded. Many families returned to homes, but some people moved north to get away from the closeness of the water.”

Prior to Katrina, PSD’s average enrollment was 7,559 students enrolled in 17 schools including: eleven elementary (K-5), three middle (6 - 8), two high schools (9 - 12), and specialty school campuses that serve the cities of Gautier and Pascagoula. Following Katrina, PSD lost 811 students; however with recovery underway enrollment is now 6,965. Although efforts were made across the coast to enroll children in their original schools, many students attended schools wherever they were living.

Pascagoula School District	Total #	Shifts Since 2004-2005
Elementary Schools	11	2 facilities closed
Middle Schools	3	
High Schools	2	
Enrollment 2004-2005	7,559	
Enrollment 2005-2006	6,748	- 811 Students
Enrollment 2006-2007	6,965	-594 Students
Number of Teachers 2004, 2005, 2006	2004-521 2005-529 2006-533	Unchanged

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Beach Elementary and Gautier Elementary were so badly damaged that they remain closed for repair. The district made the tough decision to temporarily close these schools and use temporary housing until the rebuilding is accomplished and the schools reopen in the fall of 2007. Students who previously attended these schools were first enrolled wherever there was space. Enrollment of students and keeping track of the displaced students was a challenge because technology across the district was destroyed. Eventually, student populations and staff were relocated with Gautier Elementary occupying mobile classrooms on the College Park campus in Gautier and Beach Elementary moving into units at Central Elementary in Pascagoula.

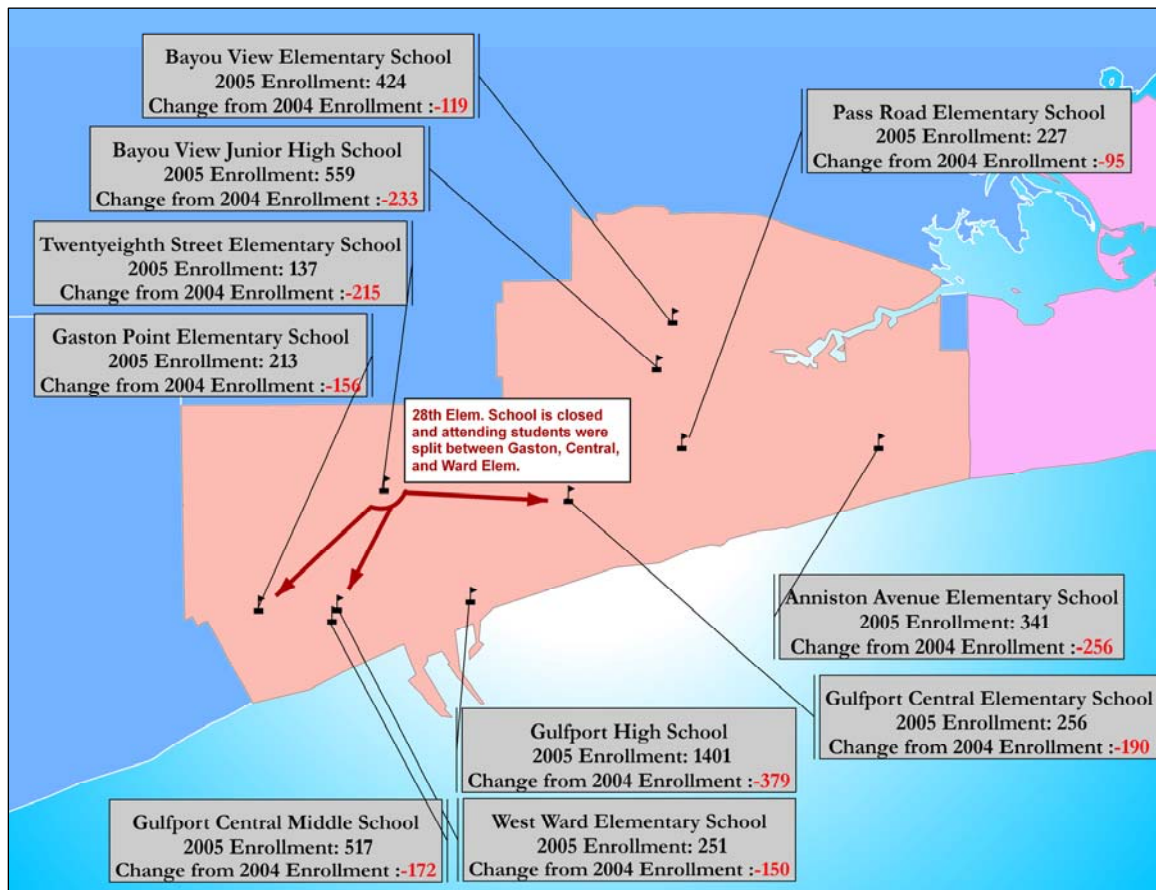


Gulfport School District lost one school, 28th Street Elementary, due to Katrina. Currently there are six functioning elementary schools in the district. Those students were reassigned to other nearby schools: Central Elementary, Gaston Point Elementary, and West Elementary.

According to Superintendent East, “The district’s elementary schools are designated as neighborhood schools. However, the 28th Street Elementary School site has become industrial, so we are working on some land deals right now that may allow us to rebuild it in a more residential part of the neighborhood.

Gulfport has always had a rather diverse population with approximately 20% being transient, coming and going during a school year. According to Mr. East, the number of transient students has increased to approximately 35% with many students coming and going throughout the year. The district was 100% free and reduced lunch through February of 2006 as were most of the affected districts. GSD is back now to the regular 59% free and reduced lunch rate.

For the past ten years, GSD enrollment has been relatively flat averaging between 6,000 and 6,500 students. This is due in part to the fact that housing is at capacity. Pre-Katrina enrollment was 6,291; however, enrollment immediately following Katrina was 4,326, declining 1,965 students. The current enrollment trend is moving upward with 5,480 students currently enrolled.



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Enrollment continues to increase with students coming back to Gulfport and new students relocating. A large number of Naval Base students were sent off from the base (TDY's) and they are beginning to come back. A new battalion is coming into the area during the next twelve months which should bring in new students. With long term residents gradually moving back into the area, Superintendent East believes enrollment will be back to normal levels by next school year and then remain relatively constant.

Gulfport School District	Total #	Shifts Since 2004-2005
Elementary Schools	7	1 Elementary School Closed
Middle Schools	1	
High Schools	1	
Enrollment 2004-2005	6291	
Enrollment 2005-2006	4326	-1,965 students
Enrollment 2006-2007	5480	-811 Students
Number of Teachers	2004 – 461 2005 – 446 2006 – 430	- 53 Teachers

The district's reduction in teaching force at the beginning of the 2004 and 2005 was not due to Katrina. The district initially had 12 teachers that failed to return after the storm. Six of them came back and the district was able to fill those last year.

Biloxi School District, prior to Katrina, was one of the wealthier schools systems in Mississippi, enrolling 6,300 students. It now has only about 4,711 students attending 11 schools. According to Superintendent Tisdale, "The Keesler Air Force Base lost nearly 95% of their housing causing the district to loose between 500 and 600 military base students. The base demolished the old housing units and is building back approximately 1,050 housing units, so the district's enrollment will definitely increase as soon as the military housing becomes available over the next three years. Families are leaving the area though moving to higher ground, because they simply do not want to risk rebuilding and going through this again. Enrollment is still down about 22% in the Biloxi School District and we do not expect to see an increase for several years because the cost of constructions is up anywhere from 30% to 50%."

On December 4, 2006, about 150 students are scheduled to leave Beauvoir Elementary and return to the new school at Gorenflo. 146 student will also return to Nichols Elementary in East Biloxi. These two schools have the capacity to serve close to 1,000 students. However, in East Biloxi, only about half of the students have returned. Other Biloxi schools have regained closer to 90% of their former enrollment levels.

Biloxi School District	Total #	Shifts Since 2004-2005
Elementary Schools	7	*Two Elementary Schools that were closed will reopen December 4, 2006
Middle Schools	1	
High Schools	1	
Enrollment 2004-2005	6305	
Enrollment 2005-2006	5244	-1,061 students
Enrollment 2006-2007	4711	-1,594 Students
Number of Teachers	2004 – 436 2005 – 420 2006 – 391	-52 Teachers

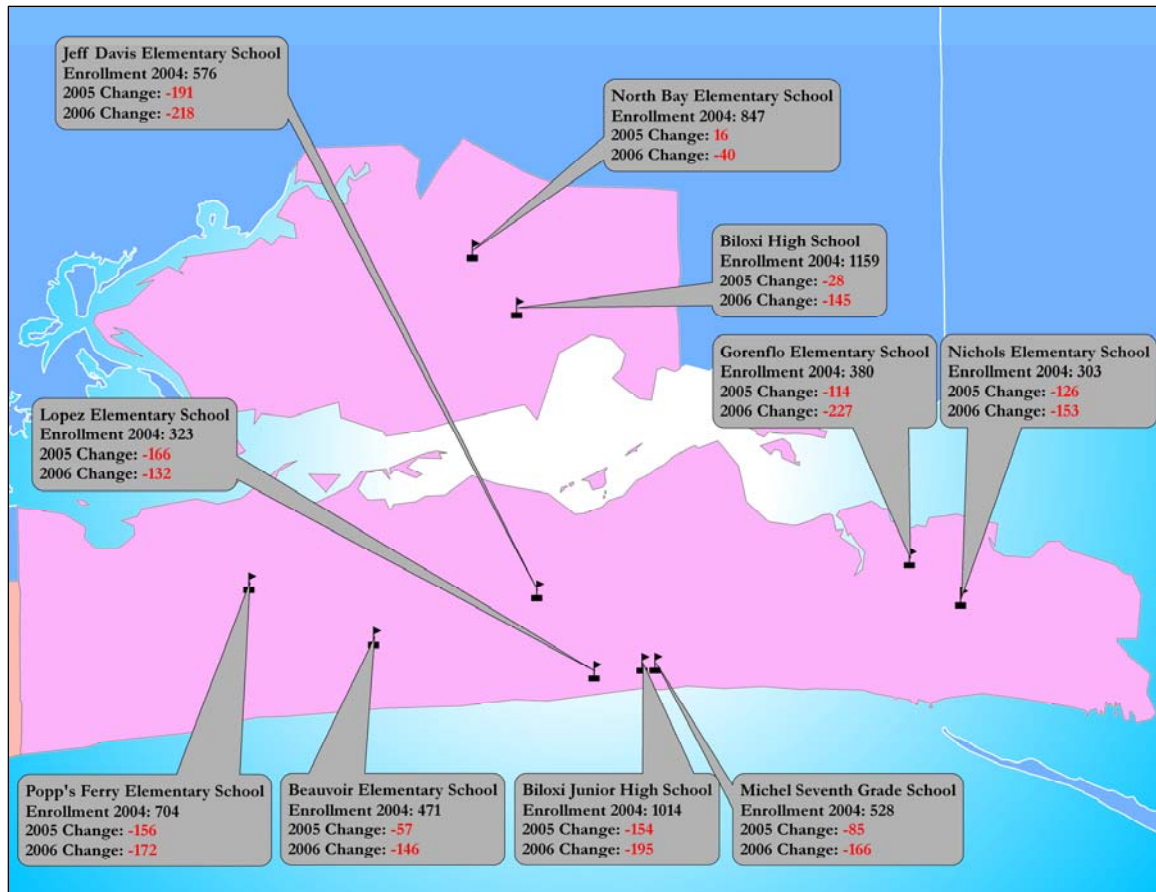
Superintendent Tisdale attributes the enrollment decline to the high cost of construction, "Many young families simply cannot afford to purchase new homes and many properties in East Biloxi are selling out to casinos. East Biloxi is expected to become even more commercial with even less residential space available. However, there

are 200 affordable housing units that are schedule to open in the area in February and this should help enrollment at these two schools. Next year the Biloxi School Board will probably be discussing the possibility of having only one elementary school in East Biloxi due to the increased commercialization of the area. They are waiting to see what plans are on the drawing board for affordable housing and how many of the families repair homes and move back to the area.

Superintendent Tisdale shared that in Biloxi the Asian population has significantly diminished, relocating to Ocean Springs after Katrina. The Hispanic population seems to be increasing due to casino construction jobs. The district has subsequently published their handbook in Spanish and Vietnamese.

He also shared that the district lost teachers when their spouses were transferred but with the district looking to make a reduction in force this was not a problem. “When all was said and done, the district had three Special Education positions they did not fill. People have been moving West and now they are moving North. Biloxi annexed about 36 square miles North of the interstate that is now part of the city, but is not part of the school district. Biloxi also has two less Assistant Principals within the district due to enrollment declines.”

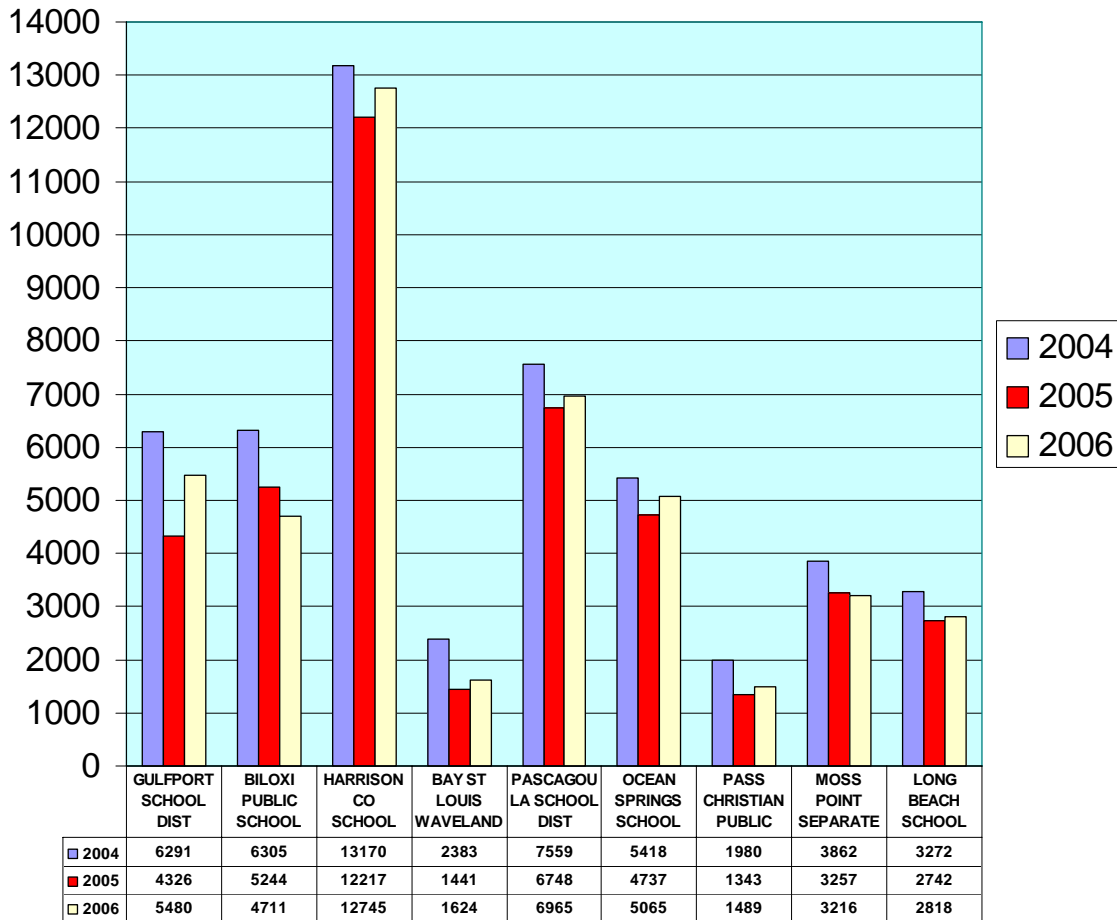
Biloxi School District Enrollment Trends



Summary Analysis of Enrollment Trends

Coastal schools districts experienced significant enrollment declines due to Katrina, serving 11% to 40% fewer students in 2004-2005. This year, enrollment is still low in some areas, serving 25% to 32% less students than Pre-Katrina levels. Other districts appear to be returning to normal enrollment levels serving only 3% to 17% fewer students than Pre-Katrina levels. Although there are many reasons for these declines, school superintendents seem to feel that the biggest factor affecting enrollment is the lack of affordable housing. Other obstacles to enrollment recovery include parents relocating because of lost jobs, and residents deciding to move to higher ground. As the recovery continues, the creation of new jobs and community rebuilding efforts should allow school districts to return to normal enrollment levels. With students returning on a daily basis, most school districts have retained their teaching staff to meet the instructional needs of students.

Pre- & Post-Katrina Enrollment for Six Mississippi Coastal School Districts



4. Counseling and Trauma Recovery Was and Continues to Be A Critical Need.

Many schools served as FEMA shelters during and immediately after the storm. School districts took immediate steps to prepare staff to help students, parents, and school district employees displaced and adversely affected by Katrina. School district staff were debriefed by the Mississippi Department of Education's response team with the focus being "preparedness" to reduce the trauma to students and school personnel. School officials also attended training sessions provided by Mobile County in Alabama with faculty from the University of Southern Alabama's departments of Counselor Education and Secondary Education, and officials from the Mobile County Division of Mental Health. Through their prior experiences with Hurricane Ivan, they offered a model training program.

Pascagoula School District management team members assisted and supported the Jackson County Emergency Operation Center on the Gautier High School Campus where National Forestry, Engineers, and Recovery Specialist were housed. They also supported the Red Cross, National Guard, and FEMA application site on the Pascagoula High School campus. On October 5, "After the Storm" group sessions were held at Gautier High School and Pascagoula High School. These sessions were facilitated by counselors from northern Mississippi and coordinated by the Mississippi Department of Education. When school reopened on October 6th, visiting school counselors, private licensed counselors, and local church groups were on hand throughout the district to address student and staff needs. "After the Storm" make-up sessions were conducted by Pascagoula School District counselors during the weeks to follow. On October 13 and 14, counselor educators from James Madison University delivered relief supplies and participated in "After the Storm" make-up sessions – consulting on group sessions and intervention efforts. Maggie Posey, LPC Clinical Director of Mobile County Mental Health consulted with PSD counselors and helped develop the "Hurricane Katrina Counseling Initiative" based on Mobile County's program "Rainbows After The Storm" originally developed in 2004 in response to Hurricane Ivan.

Eventually, PSD employed three counselors through a \$250,000 Chevron grant and state grant funds to provide the needed services for the "Hurricane Katrina Counseling Initiative." Chevron and PSD received the Governor's Award of Excellence for this program. The district has utilized the grant funds and federal funds to provide trauma recovery and mental health counseling to children and adults affected by Hurricane Katrina. These counseling services assist children and their families to process feelings, restore a sense of safety, and reduce anxiety levels. Private licensed counselors and licensed school counselors provide services in PSD facilities including:

- Psychosocial Assessment
- Trauma Assessment
- Individual Treatment Planning
- Individual, Family, and Group Therapy
- Family support and education
- Consultation, as needed, with PSD faculty and staff

According to Superintendent Rodolfich, “People in Pascagoula continue to benefit from counseling, some who may not know they need the services, but everyone around them knows. If we have an issue with a teacher that is really obscure or a disciplinary action that is out of the ordinary, the counseling is automatically a part of the process.”

Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School District still has a school counselor at each school and also contracts through a grant for the services of a private licensed psychologist for staff counseling. According to Assistant Superintendent Ladner, “We continue to make counseling available for our teachers and staff through the licensed psychologist that lives outside our county. Teachers actually go to her office for help or she comes to them and meets with them. The psychologist comes to our schools to remind personnel that she is available. We plan to retain her services for the rest of the year. Also through the grant, we contract with a psychiatrist that is on staff and another licensed psychologist that are with us everyday providing services to our students. We initially thought we would bring the counseling for our staff into the schools, but for privacy reasons we decided to go with someone outside the district. We do not know which teachers go see her to maintain their privacy. We are very observant right now because last year we did not see as much need because people were operating primarily out of shock. Right now we are at a different stage of need. Anger and patience is wearing thin on people, so we are trying to provide them everything we can. It is getting better for people, and as things get better for teachers, they get better for our students. Finally some of our residents are beginning to get the grants they need to rebuild, and with that coming through, a lot of people that have been waiting for over a year are finally getting help. Those checks finally started going out in late August, but still many residents do not know if, or when, they will get help. Every time we hear of somebody getting back in their house or finding a new house, we make a real big deal of it. Overall, everyone has had a real good attitude about the FEMA trailers. At Christmas last year the FEMA trailers were all decorated and it was the neatest thing. We will be doing a survey in the next two weeks to gather more information on staff needs.”

Gulfport School District’s faculty and staff morale is somewhat of a roller coaster according to Superintendent East. Nine of the eleven building principals lost almost everything in the storm and returned to flooded or totally destroyed homes. About 200 of GSD’s teachers had severe home damage and many faculty are still living in FEMA trailers. The district still has 16 portable trailers located at the high school with staff living in them, so morale ebbs and flows. “We have not experienced any significant morale problems or psychological issues, but the faculty is tired, so we have to make sure to take time out to praise their efforts. We really started noticing this toward the end of the year last year. Then we started out really great in August after a much needed summer break. But after being back in the grind of teaching school every day and working on your house all weekend, you notice people getting tired and emotions wearing thin so the holiday breaks are really appreciated.”

Students are doing better than adults in most cases. According to Mr. East, “Our initial worry was the middle school child. Elementary students have their parents, high school students can drive and get around, but for 6th through 8th grade students, almost

everything they participate in was initially closed. Even now many facilities where middle schoolers usually go to play and hang-out are still closed. Church programs were also impacted. Many church programs are back up and running, helping tremendously, and all of our schools have after school programs. We also have boys and girls clubs, girl scouts and boy scouts in our schools and they have picked up much of the slack for these students. The simple things like the bowling alley and the cinema re-opening really helped those students.”

GSD Counselors and outside groups have come in to work with students and teachers. The district held special large group counseling sessions and implemented emergency hotlines. Last year the district was very liberal in allowing teachers to make appointments for insurance, FEMA, housing issues, and covering classes for each other. The district privatized out for substitute teachers through an employment agency and struggled in acquiring substitute teachers. This year the district is back to a more regular routine with approximately a 95% fill rate of substitute teacher requests.

Biloxi School District also participated in counseling debriefing sessions with MDE and trained their teachers to deal with the trauma and students’ special needs. The district continues to offer counseling to students and staff as do most of the coastal school districts through grants and federal programs.

Currently, Mercy Corps, a non-profit organization, has a strong presence in the community and they have trained most of the teachers in the elementary schools that will reopen on December 4, 2006. The BSD counselors and teachers seem very cognizant of student’s special needs.

Project School Emergency Response to Violence is an MDE discretionary grant designed to provide counseling services to students, staff, and parents. These funds were designed to provide immediate and long term response to traumatic events surrounding hurricane Katrina. Total funding for this project, which is subject to renewal is \$100,000.

Project Resilience is a training program for caregivers funded by the United Jewish Communities through the Mississippi Mental Health Association. The project trains faculty and staff to deal with post-traumatic situations at least a year post-event. The training prepared staff members for dealing with renewed memories and potential traumatic behavior associated with returning to their home school and neighborhood destroyed by Katrina. Training and on-going support is provided by the Trauma Center of Israel.

Biloxi School Counselor Bush shared, “As our students go back to FEMA trailers, often living in close quarters with relatives and friends, their home life is not normal. Many of their parents still face tough decisions like paying rent on an apartment that has tripled or possibly facing the prospect of rebuilding with the cost of labor and supplies almost double last year’s prices. For the most part though, the students are coping very well, but there are still those that have trouble that may the break down and just need someone to talk to.”

A Biloxi high school teacher shared her story of survival and a few of the things students have shared in her classroom. She said that things are not back to normal. She shared how students talked about events immediately following Katrina. “They shared in class about how no one had anything; everyone needed water; everyone needed MREs; and everyone stood in the same lines. They talked about how they forgot about appearances after having no electricity or water for days. They shared stories of living with relatives and friends. One student reminisced about going shopping after relocating and getting everything with a discount when people learned she was from Biloxi. Some of my students were emotional as they shared in class stories of survival or staying in a motel the first night of the storm. The most touching truths were when my students shared their fears of losing friends and family.” This teacher actually stayed at home during the storm and had to swim to safety as the water rose. She said that just about everyone had someone close to them that they were looking for and how not being able to communicate for days and weeks was the most difficult part. This teachers stories give credence to the need for continued trauma counseling and intervention.

Summary Analysis of School Counseling and Trauma Recovery Efforts

Schools served as counseling centers offering extensive counseling services to children and families and helping students to process feelings while restoring a sense of safety, and reducing anxiety levels. Private licensed counselors and licensed school counselors continue to provide services in most districts ranging from psychosocial and trauma assessment to group therapy and family support. These services help students, teachers, and families cope with pressures as they move through the various stages of recovery. Counseling services are still available in most districts due to grant and federal funds; however, the degree to which these services are being utilized was not determined.

5. Schools Continued to Maintain the Instructional Focus After the Storm.

In the *Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School District*, prior to the schools actual reopening October 10, the Pearson Disaster Relief Fund began helping school officials welcome students back to temporary tent schools in anticipation of school reopening on November 7. Through the tent school’s first week of operation, volunteers served as the school’s temporary teachers. These volunteers lead small groups of students in reading and writing exercises, supervised outdoor classes and activities, and managed other activities between classes. As the number of students increased each day, every new student was welcomed with gifts of books. Students returned to an academic focus on board a Mobile Classroom eBus. Using the numerous technology based learning programs, volunteers began to assess students’ specific needs to provide supportive instruction in math and reading.

According to Associate Superintendent Ladner, “In December when the eBuses left the district, they generously provided us gifts of computer hardware and software and materials that continue to be used by students and teachers. Other instructional adjustments include altering expectations in the classroom. Teachers have to take into consideration where students are living. Most students do not have access to a quiet place to do homework since so many are still living in compact FEMA trailers. So our teachers try not to give homework by allotting time for students to study in class. Preparing students for state testing is also a major challenge. Keeping students focused and concentrating on academics is an enormous challenge and with so much on their minds it is difficult to focus on the test.” She also noted some improvements that have resulted due to the use of portable classrooms, such as, bathroom facilities being located in each classroom. Also, with most of the district’s teachers back and enrollment down, the teacher-student ratio is optimal, and this allows teachers to team teach and provide more one-on-one instruction. As enrollment returns to normal, class size should also return to Pre-Katrina levels.

In Mississippi, school’s performance levels range from 5 to 1: superior, exemplary, successful, under-performing, and low-performing. All schools are expected to become superior schools. In 2005-2006, BSLW schools maintained the former year’s performance levels with two schools actually improving their performance levels. Waveland Elementary enrollment declined almost 41% and Bay Waveland Middle School declined 38% last year, but both schools improved their performance levels.

Bay Saint Louis/Waveland District	Post Katrina Enrollment Shift	2006 Level	2005 Level
Bay High	-18.96%	Level 4	Level 4
Bay-Waveland Middle	-38.23%	Level 5	Level 4
North Bay Elem	-30.75%	Level 5	Level 3
Second Street Elem	-38.12%	Level 4	Level 4
Waveland Elem	-40.87%	Level 4	Level 3

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Pascagoula School District missed 27 days of school due to Katrina, the most days missed in Jackson County. These missed days were made up by canceling Thanksgiving break and part of Mardi Gras break while adding extra hours to each school day from October through January. Even with so many distractions, PSD’s focus on academic excellence was evidenced in their student’s mandatory state tests scores. According to Superintendent Rodolfich, “PSD high schools are on a 4X4 block and the middle schools run a modified block. With 27 days of instruction lost on a block schedule, PSD teachers had 63 days to teach the whole curriculum and they were successful. PSD emphasizes differentiated instruction, changing the pace continuously, teaching from bell to bell, and parental contact. Our teachers and administrators have such a high capacity to respond to adversity that they take on just about anything. They are used to students being deficient somewhere and having to make it up. They are used to it. This was on a grand scale, but they are meeting the challenge”

Pascagoula School District	Post Katrina Enrollment Shift	2006 Level	2005 Level
Arlington Hts Elem	-8.74%	Level 4	Level 4
Beach Elementary	-9.73%	Level 5	Level 5
Central Elementary	-2.47%	Level 3	Level 3
Cherokee Elem	-13.99%	Level 4	Level 4
College Park Elem	-23.73%	Level 4	Level 4
Eastlawn Elem	-17.89%	Level 4	Level 4
Gautier Elem	-24.24%	Level 4	Level 3
Gautier High	-3.81%	Level 5	Level 5
Gautier Middle	-11.74%	Level 4	Level 4
Jackson Elem	-28.06%	Level 4	Level 3
Lake Elementary	2.38%	Level 5	Level 5
Martin Bluff Elem	-3.10%	Level 5	Level 5
Pascagoula High	-3.70%	Level 5	Level 5
Singing River Elem	-9.11%	Level 3	Level 3
Trent Lott Middle	-22.49%	Level 5	Level 5
Colmer Middle	-9.00%	Level 3	Level 3

Last year, PSD schools maintained former performance levels with two elementary schools demonstrating significant improvement despite having the district’s largest percentile decline in enrollment. Enrollment in Jackson Elementary declined 23.4% and Gautier Elementary enrollment declined 24.2%; however, both schools moved from Level 3 (Successful) to Level 4 (Exemplary). Gautier High School was in the achievement level index “Top 20” for all Mississippi schools and Superintendent Rodolfich received the Governor's Award for Perseverance.

Gulfport School District’s school performance levels remained the same, with the exception of Pass Road Elementary that moved from a Level 4 (Exemplary) to Level 3 (Successful). Even with Katrina, the pressure is always on everyone to make sure that all students succeed, and the academic focus is on every learner. According to Mr. East, “We chose not to utilize any waivers for accreditation purposes. Only two of our schools showed slightly lower students’ test scores, the others maintained the same or increased slightly. For the first

Gulfport School District	Post Katrina Enrollment Shift	2006 Level	2005 Level
Anniston Ave Elem	-23.79%	Level 5	Level 5
Bayou View Elem	-4.24%	Level 5	Level 5
Bayou View Middle	-14.65%	Level 5	Level 5
Central Elem	6.73%	Level 4	Level 4
Gaston Point Elem	29.27%	Level 4	Level 4
Gulfport Central Mid	-14.51%	Level 3	Level 3
Gulfport High	-8.09%	Level 5	Level 5
Pass Road Elem	-13.35%	Level 3	Level 4
West Elementary	-7.23%	Level 5	Level 5

time the district is struggling to fill Special Education openings. We are having difficulty filling Special Education teacher openings primarily due to the lack of affordable housing. We have received numerous inquiries about the vacancies, but there is no place for new teachers to live. GSD is actually eligible for two Special Education programs that they cannot run because they have no teachers to put in the classrooms. We have absorbed the students into our programs, but some of these students have specialized needs that the district is probably not meeting to the best of our ability. We even have a couple of teachers that came to work for the district that are living in their own personal trailers that they brought down to live in. These staffing issues will go away as housing begins to reopen. GSD has added a technology component to our after school tutoring programs through NOVA net allowing more individualized student instruction and tutoring.”

Biloxi Public Schools performance levels remained the same for the high school (gr. 10-12), junior high school (gr. 8-9), seventh grade school, and four of our seven elementary schools. Two elementary schools dropped from Level 5 to Level 4 (North Bay Elementary and Jeff Davis Elementary) and one elementary school dropped from Level 5 to Level 3. However, this district requested waivers for these three elementary schools and the request was granted. So, those three schools retained the accreditation level they earned the year before for this current year. Biloxi thereby maintained its outstanding performance levels in all of its schools with nine schools rated Level 5 (Superior) and one school rated Level 4 (Exemplary). Biloxi has a history of posting high achievement as it did before the storm with 90 percent of its students proficient in reading in 2003-2004, compared to 78 percent statewide.

Also, **student dropout rates** are a concern for schools across the nation. Will more students drop out of school due to issues raised by Katrina? When students drop out of school they diminish their ability to acquire long term gainful employment. High numbers of students dropping out negatively impacts a community’s economic growth potential. Dropping out of school diminishes a student’s chances of graduating with a high school diploma. These growing concerns over dropout rates are evidenced in recent dropout prevention legislation passed by the Mississippi legislature last year. Unofficial estimates of the 4-year dropout, completion, and graduation rates for the full cohort of 2001/2002 ninth graders were recently calculated for students due to graduate last year, in the year of Katrina. Preliminary dropout rates by district were recently released by the Mississippi Department of Education. The high cohort based dropout rates in some districts have generated concerns from school officials, business leaders, and local officials. One superintendent expressed real concern over his district’s 50% dropout rate. The superintendent also expressed concerns that the dropout rate may be higher this year due to family displacements and students quitting school to work in temporary debris cleanup jobs and construction jobs.

Summary Analysis of Schools' Ability to Maintain Instructional Focus

The Mississippi's accountability standards measure school's performance using a formula that incorporates student level academic achievement and academic growth data. However, only students enrolled at least 70% of the school year are counted in the formula. Using school performance levels, Katrina appears to have had no significant impact on student achievement in coastal schools. Most schools maintained school performance levels without the use of waivers, except for three Biloxi elementary schools that received a waiver. School districts missed anywhere from nineteen days to two months of school following the storm. Several districts made up missed days by cancelling breaks and holidays and by adding extra hours to the school day. Pass Christian school actually converted from a 4 X 4 Block schedule to a six period day, allowing them to make up the class time so seniors could graduate. However, several questions remain unanswered:

- How has dislocation of students and families impacted student achievement?
- Will more students drop out of school due to issues raised by Katrina?
- Will more high school students dropout to take on jobs created due to Katrina recovery efforts?

The state is moving closer to determining the actual number of students dropping out of school using the new cohort dropout formula as it tracks student level data. Future longitudinal study is required to determine if issues related to Katrina have a significant impact on student dropout rates in Mississippi.

Bay Saint Louis Tent Schools Provided the Initial Focus on Learning



6. Physical Restoration Will Be Driven Largely by Federal Funds.

In Bay Saint Louis/Waveland School District, ninety-six percent (96%) of the district's students now qualify to eat free. Prior to the storm, only 60% qualified. The district has cleaned up and repaired the middle school. However, the district is going to have to rebuild two elementary schools and is still working to repair part of the high school. Only two cafeterias are currently operational. Food is transported to two campuses and students from the high school walk to the middle school to eat. The district has replaced only 120 computers out of the 800 they lost.

The best recovery estimates to date show that the district's overall recovery effort may require more than \$40 million. Local revenue has decreased by at least 50%, creating strained budgets and overall belt tightening. The district's tax base revenue is projected to be 50% to 65% less than previous years, and until families rebuild and businesses reopen the local revenues will be insufficient to meet budgetary needs.

According to Assistant Superintendent Ladner, "We were able to recover some of the district records with a company that came in and actually freeze dried some of our records. They set up a freezer truck outside and processed them so that we could then get them and redo them. At the school level, we used email for everything and it was not until after spring break last year, that our network system was brought back up and we were finally able to get computers to teachers. We didn't have an intercom system, email, not even a telephone until March. We used our cell phones to communicate with parents until the school's telephones were back on. We had an internet based software program for Special Education. The actual Special Education department was located in the basement of a building that was built in 1929 so they had the most mud in the district. Luckily we had the internet based Special Education Individualized Education Plan program, so those student records were back up and available when their technology was restored. Our high school was located on higher ground and so their records were not so damaged."

The Bay Saint Louis-Waveland School District faces a huge budget deficit with 60% of Bay Saint Louis and 92% of Waveland destroyed disabling the tax base for the school district. The district acquired a \$10 million loan from the Mississippi Development Bank so that schools could reopen. They are currently operating with \$3.7 million from FEMA, \$5 million from insurance companies, and \$13 million from the U.S. Department of Education, but the district will still be \$14 to 17 million shy of what is needed to recover with tremendous challenges ahead.

FEMA continues to assess the damages. If the experts determine that more than 50 percent of a school building is damaged, then the district has the option to rebuild from the ground up. But when a building is still standing, it takes months of assessing and evaluating the condition of the building to make decisions. The school administration predicts that students could remain in mobile classrooms for several years to come.

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County officials have projected deficits for the county and towns to be \$30 million for Bay Saint Louis, \$45 million for Waveland, and \$44.5 million for Hancock County through 2008. The county and towns are eligible for grants of up to \$3 million each to pay their bills, but this will not erase current budget deficits. Waveland, Bay Saint Louis and Hancock County need about \$27 million combined in local matching funds to proceed with infrastructure projects. Harrison County normally receives about \$475,000 a month, or 16 percent of its operating revenue from casino revenues. Hollywood Casino reopened on September 1, 2006, restoring 1,000 jobs and \$2 million in annual tax revenues as well as new stores including: Home Depot, Lowe's, and Wal-Mart in Waveland.

Pascagoula School District's total operating budget has not changed drastically according to Superintendent Rodolfich. "The current PSD budget is \$78 million and the district employs roughly 1,100 teachers, administrators, instructional, and other support personnel. PSD received a Community Disaster Loan (CDL) to help maintain their normal budget and make up any shortfall. The district has acquired additional revenue through the federal government (approximately \$2 million in Restart Funds and \$2 million in Displaced Student Funds). Three Pascagoula schools received grants from FEMA for school repair and construction. More than \$1 million will be used at Eastlawn Elementary School to clean and repair classrooms, the kitchen and cafeteria, and offices to pre-hurricane conditions. More than \$1.2 million has been obligated to repair the ceiling, flooring, doors, and windows at William Colmer Middle School. Three air conditioning units were also ruined and \$50,000 of the FEMA grant will pay for elevating the air conditioning units above floodplain levels.

Eleven buildings flooded sustaining \$26 million in total damages. The district completed a massive Phase I restoration project with floors and new cafeteria tables at Eastlawn and Central Elementary and Trent Lott Middle School. The roofs at Pascagoula and Gautier High Schools, Gautier and Colmer Middle Schools, and Martin Bluff Elementary were repaired. The district's maintenance department has completed painting projects at Colmer and Trent Lott Middle schools and Central and Eastlawn Elementary schools. New construction was completed at Gautier Elementary Library and the Martin Bluff physical education building. Additional projects continue while architects review the rebuilding of Beach Elementary and Gautier Elementary, the second phase of flooring projects, and the refinishing of all gym floors. Doors, casework, shelving, and windows are on the upcoming summertime replacement schedule. The district has been moderately successful in restoring all the desks by borrowing desks and having some donated. Eventually the plan is to replace all of the desks that received water damage. Textbooks were replaced the same way. Technology has been replaced and actually increased on many campuses by incorporating new technologies such as Smartboards to enhance instruction.

Twenty-nine school buses were flooded, but PSD was able to restore those and buy six additional buses since the storm. PSD also purchased a STAR bus (Student Technology and Reading Bus) to replace the district's "Read and Ride" bus that was destroyed during the hurricane. The STAR bus is equipped with computers and reading programs for

during and after school programs. It is also parked at grocery stores for use in the summer reading program.

PSD has temporary buildings at Central Elementary, College Park Elementary, Singing River Elementary, and Martin Bluff Elementary. Part of that is because of population growth in these areas. Martin Bluff Elementary has increased because it is north of the interstate and is less likely to flood. There is a tremendous amount of new development in these areas. Using temporary buildings for now, the district is able to maintain an appropriate student/teacher ratio in these growth areas.

Gulfport School District's buildings suffered minimal damage except for 28th Street Elementary. GSD's immediate concerns focus on the district's tax base and the loss of homes in Gulfport, rather than actual damage to local school buildings. The high school reopened nineteen days after the storm with elementary schools opening shortly thereafter. Superintendent East expressed some concern regarding data accuracy due to the loss of the district's technology center located on the beach. Due to this misfortune, most of the district's Post-Katrina data was pulled and tabulated by hand requiring double checking to make sure the numbers were accurate.

At this point, GSD is completing punch lists and all schools are operating and back to full capacity with new roofs. The only exception is 28th Street Elementary. Gaston Point is using some mobile classrooms due to the large number of 28th Street Elementary students that are attending there. The district chose not to use portable buildings anywhere else, because they had adequate space at the other schools. Gulfport has a privatized bus system, so they suffered no losses of buses.

All of the district's losses on textbooks, band uniforms, instruments, etc. were losses in students homes. You had the band whose first football game was the weekend Katrina hit, so those uniforms and instruments were at home. Through donations and other means GSD managed to recover in most areas, but the superintendent shared that the high costs of textbooks is a difficult item to cover even in the best of times. The district has, as part of its strategic plan, the goal to move away from paper and textbooks but Katrina definitely slowed the process because of lost funding. Before the storm hit, the district had set aside some surplus funds to move toward online textbooks, but recovery efforts depleted those funds.

According to Mr. East, "Prior to the storm we went through all the normal procedures to back up our computers, made sure we had our student records on high ground in plastic cases, and checked phone trees, etc. We figured on that Saturday that it was going to be bad so we even went ahead and completed payroll which normally would have gone out the following Wednesday. It was deposited that Saturday when the banks were trying to shut down as well."

In the aftermath of losing their Technology Center on the beach, the district is taking measures to make sure equipment is more portable in the future, so that in the event of an evacuation it can be transported to safety. The district has also made sure that all

teachers are equipped with flash drives and trained on how to back up data. The district has also discussed plans to decentralize networking and use a more school level approach with Local Area Network (LAN) servers in each school. Each school's data would then be also backed up and transported to safety in the event of another tragedy.

According to Superintendent East, "GSD was well insured prior to the storm and still is. In dealing with FEMA the district could have done some things differently. The technology center was located on East Ward on the beach in 1921 so we decided to build a new building on higher ground in a different location. In hind sight, we could have asked FEMA to rebuild the building back to its original state in a condition that would withstand a storm. Our thinking was to save tax payer dollars it would be better to relocate and spend 4 million to build a new building rather than spending 10 to 12 million to rebuild on the original location. We thought we were making a wise decision but when FEMA rules and procedures played out maybe it was not such a wise decision. We could have had a beautiful historical building on the beach and possibly relocated the technology to the second floor.

Our biggest worry concerning the restart dollars and displaced student dollars is that GSD was doing everything by hand, trying to reach a timeline that was designed to be done by computer. We want to do things right, and so much of what we were doing was by hand. Also, the definition of displaced changed so many times before it was finally settled. One Post-Katrina worry was to make sure that all the calculations were correct, things that you normally do not have to worry about. We had students back at school one day, not there for two weeks, back for two weeks, and trying to give them an accurate feel for what the numbers are without the use of computers."

Biloxi schools -- Gorenflo and Nichols Elementary schools received severe damage and had to be gutted and renovated before they could again house children. The district plans to reopen these schools on December 4, 2006. Students were temporarily relocated to two other schools in the district, Beauvoir and Jeff Davis Elementary, allowing all students to return to schools reopened in the weeks following Hurricane Katrina. The remaining schools in the district sustained significant or extensive roof damage. Biloxi High School, a four year old structure, had the structural envelop of roof compromised. So, district wide, Biloxi School District had about \$23 million in Katrina related damages.

According to Superintendent Tisdale, "The outside structures were pretty sound but we had to tear out sheetrock and tile and replace wiring. Maintenance workers began delivering furniture, books and other supplies to the new schools last week. Enrollment for both schools is about half of what it was before Katrina hit. On December 4, 2006, about 152 students will return to Gorenflo and 146 students to Nichols. Before the storm, these schools had enrollments of 330 and 300, respectively. The school district will have to decide if it needs two schools in the same area. In a year, based on availability and affordability of housing in East Biloxi, we will decide if we need two schools in East Biloxi. The cost to renovate Nichols was just under \$5 million; the cost for Gorenflo was

just over \$5 million. The district had to pay \$1 million of the cost for Nichols because the school was in a flood plain.

The district did not have flood insurance coverage prior to Katrina. However, since the Hurricane, the District has purchased the NFIP maximum policies (\$500,000) for Gorenflo Elementary and Nichols Elementary at a cost of approximately \$4,000 per school. We could not obtain the excess flood coverage for the remaining \$10 million of value in those two buildings. We obtained a waiver from the State Insurance Commissioner saying that the insurance was unavailable to us and FEMA released our requirement to obtain insurance on these schools for one year. We will have to prove to the Insurance Commissioner annually that the excess flood is either unavailable or not cost effective; otherwise, FEMA will require us to obtain excess flood policies on them.

Additionally, Biloxi School District's windstorm premium did not change for 05-06 to 06-07 because the rate increase went into effect after our renewal. Based on the 281% increase, our windstorm for 07-08 will increase from \$125,936 annually to \$353,880 annually. Since windstorm only covers the district for about \$11 million, the district has to get excess coverage of approximately \$100 million through the open market. In 05-06, one insurer covered entire \$100 million excess coverage with an annual premium of \$324,830. For 2006-07 year, there are eight companies providing eleven layers of insurance to cover the \$100 million excess. Our premium for 06-07 increased to \$1,333,642, a 311% increase.

Biloxi School District's budget in 2005-06 was \$67,671,777, and the current budget is higher at \$75,379,722 with most of the increase related to hurricane relief and insurance funds. Prior to the storm Biloxi had cash reserves. Ironically, Biloxi only lost one bus that was used by the city for evacuation as they moved the others to high land prior to Katrina's landfall.

The projected cost to restore Gorenflo and Nichols was approximately \$10 million. These two schools are located in East Biloxi and were the newest schools in the district--only a year old. Nichols Elementary School had eight feet of water and Gorenflo Elementary School had six feet of water standing. Originally, the schools cost us about \$9 million and \$11 million dollars each to build. When the bids came in to rebuild, the cost had almost doubled to about \$200 per square foot, which made it very costly to rebuild.

Biloxi schools receive a revenue stream from gaming that other districts do not receive. What really helped out this year though, was an insurance rider that our school district took out with the City of Biloxi's "Business Revenue Interruption Insurance" policy. The policy was with Lloyds of London, and incidentally it was finalized only about three or four weeks before Katrina made landfall. Business interruption insurance is common in the private sector. Casinos have this insurance for loss of business. The insurance ensures a steady source of revenue, should a catastrophic hurricane close waterfront resorts. When we checked, we found out that state law prohibit public schools from purchasing this kind of insurance, but we also found out that we could get the insurance

GULFGOV Special Research Project

as a rider on the city's policy. So with board approval, at a cost of only \$38,000, we purchased the rider just three weeks before the storm hit. Bottom line is, when the casinos were down immediately following the storm, the revenue that the school district lost was about \$3 million dollars which was also the amount our policy covered. So although we were out almost \$3 million in lost casino revenues, we received a check from Lloyds of London for almost \$3 million. Incidentally, the policy is no longer available after Katrina."

In Mississippi, according to figures reported by the Mississippi Department of Education, initially after the storm more than 466 classroom units were requested by more than 300 schools damaged or destroyed by Katrina. These plain, mobile classrooms meant everything to these school districts because they allowed them to reopen schools temporarily. In talking with superintendents that utilize mobile classrooms and offices, the building allowed their districts to reopen, but also bought them time make decisions about damaged school facilities.

FEMA released a report on September 13, 2006, "FEMA Funds Nearly \$12 Million More for Mississippi School Rebuilding Efforts," which indicated that more than \$175 million has been obligated by FEMA for school repair and construction in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. These grants to assist school reconstruction total: \$48.9 million for 19 schools in Hancock County; \$61.1 million for 51 schools in Harrison County; \$44.3 million for 36 schools in Jackson County; and \$21.4 million for 16 schools in the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi. The FEMA grants provide 100 percent of the rebuilding and repair costs, less insurance proceeds. These school funds are administered by MEMA.

Pass Christian School District Superintendent Sue Matheson shared a draft plan for a new state-of-the-art multipurpose K-8 facility, that has a courtyard and facilities that the community would also be able to use. If they build according to the plan, it will be good for the schools and good for the community that was so devastated by the storm. The multipurpose facility plan was developed at a national leadership conference that Dr. Matheson recently attended.

Pass Christian School District now houses all of its K-8 classes on the eight-acre Delisle Elementary campus, using mobile classrooms. The picture below was taken from the parking lot of the Pass Christian Delisle Elementary School. Delisle was the only elementary building to withstand the torrents of the storm surge and subsequent flooding. The school site now houses mobile classrooms for all K-8 students in Pass Christian. The mobile units allowed the Pass Christian schools to reopen and while the district assesses damages, process insurance and FEMA claims, and complete strategic plans for rebuilding the school district's infrastructure.

Summary Analysis of School Facilities Restoration Efforts

In Mississippi, 466 classroom units were requested by more than 300 schools damaged or destroyed by Katrina. The buildings allowed districts to reopen, but also providing school districts additional time to make decisions about damaged school facilities.

More than \$175 million has been obligated by FEMA for school repair and construction in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. These grants will assist school reconstruction. The FEMA grants provide 100 percent of the rebuilding and repair costs, less insurance proceeds. These school funds are administered by MEMA.

Charts in Appendix A show the amounts and kinds of federal relief funds received and expended thus far by Katrina affected school districts.

7. Some Things Were Great!

The need for preparedness, the ability to mobilize, and the organization to act increases with information. Mississippi's Gulf Coast educational leaders led much of the state's initial recovery effort. Effective school and community disaster preparation plans result as policymakers and education leaders share quality, relevant, and useful information through the examination, analysis and dissemination of research, policy options and quality practice. School leaders such as Harrison County School Superintendent Henry Arledge, who has served them for eight consecutive terms, beginning in 1980, possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience that extends beyond finance, personnel, 16th section land management, construction, maintenance, transportation, instructional programs, and technology implementation. The things he managed to accomplish at the Harrison County Central Office, a former Lowe's Store, demonstrates what can be accomplished when we strive to integrate disaster preparedness into the school culture, curriculum, and collaborations.

The leadership of Mississippians, Superintendent of Education Hank Bounds and Governor Haley Barbour, has helped to transform public schools' disaster recovery efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Prior to being the newly appointed State Superintendent, Dr. Bounds was the superintendent of Pascagoula Schools. According to the district superintendents we interviewed, Dr. Bounds remained in continual contact with schools on the coast providing information, participating in meetings, responding to inquiries, and sharing and planning strategies along with Mississippi policymakers and national leaders.

Congress passed the "Hurricane Education Recovery Act" in December of 2005, legislation that authorized three new grant programs to assist school districts and schools in meeting the educational needs of students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

and in helping schools that were closed, as a result of the hurricanes, to reopen as quickly and effectively as possible. The grants include:

- Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations
- Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students
- Assistance for Homeless Youth.

Appendix A includes charts providing information on the revenues and expenditures of school districts that have benefited from these federal funds.

Several superintendents shared how these funds have allowed them to continue to operate. However, also according to most of the superintendents, dealing with FEMA is a learning process in and of itself. Learning to work with and around FEMA seems to be a key element of recovery. Several superintendents shared the lessons learned with almost everyone expressing the need for more continuity from FEMA..

One superintendent shared, “You lay it all out for the FEMA representative that comes to your school, then you come back the next day, and a new FEMA representative has been assigned. If you get a hard nosed FEMA representative that is impossible to work with, just wait until you finally get a good one, and then be prepared to pour it on, accomplish as much as you can and get what you need done while the good one is in town.”

8. Some Things Need To Change.

When Katrina hit, almost everyone: superintendents, mayors, state departments, state and federal governments, was saying how they were going to move quickly and get everything fixed; while bureaucracies slowed things down. The reality is that it has been fourteen months and many of the promises still must be fulfilled.

Superintendent Glen East shared his beliefs, “Getting students back in school was the right thing to do; however, the many bureaucracies continue to slow the needed accomplishments. Having FEMA personnel change from week to week made the work load even more tremendous. One FEMA representative would come in and say no to every request, then the next one would come in and offer a different interpretation of the regulations. It really should not be that way. There must be a way to streamline some of the processes and still maintain integrity and ensure accountability. Streamline the rotating in and out of agency personnel. On a Monday, someone would stand up and say you could do this and that, then the next day another person would come in and say you couldn’t do that. Well, you have put time in on that and it wasn’t because they were lying or didn’t know....it was because the rules changed. Superintendents and business managers met every Thursday for eight weeks after the storm. At each of those meeting we increasingly were told this and that changed. Then you’ve involved principals, food service, etc. so it just got to be you were scared to go back and do anything because of morale, you had to go back and say we can’t do it that way, we have to do it this way. It didn’t matter that you had been working for five days on the way they told us to do it last week. No one really seemed to know what the guidelines really were, local, state, or

federal. The city of Gulfport, our state department of education, and our state stepped up to help us with a good pattern of let's get this done. But the FEMA regulations were being interpreted differently from representative to representative. First we were going to be held harmless on No Child Left Behind, and then we weren't, and then we were, and then we could do this for only one year. Federal bureaucracy needs to be more streamlined and more in sync to get the federal dollars into the hands of the local people to get the work done that needs to be accomplished."

Superintendent Paul Tisdale shared his thoughts, "One thing we will do different in the future is to have our School Board meet before an impending hurricane to declare a state of emergency so that we can take action on things that needs to occur. The Escambia Emergency Relief Team (EERT), from Escambia County Schools, Florida, came to the coast through efforts of the Gulf Coast Educational Consortium Initiative and they shared literature and manuals, and tools for school districts to use to track the FEMA paperwork trail. This team was a tremendously valuable resource to schools on the coast.

The cost of insurance is also an issue for schools. Like any other business, school districts bear the cost of insurance and on the coast that insurance has gone up anywhere from 160% to 300%. The possibility of insurance going up after Katrina is an issue for schools. Although Mississippi has the Adequate Education Formula (MAEP), it has not been fully funded and when this happens it impacts districts disproportionately. Every district does not just cut 10% off their budget. So with the talk of insurance costs going up, Biloxi schools have casino revenue stream that other districts do not have. Biloxi will be able to make it but many other districts may have to make critical choices between insurance, teachers, and facility improvements. It is so critical that MAEP be fully funded in this state."

The insurance costs are offset to some degree by the FEMA reimbursements, but Biloxi has not received any reimbursements yet for those two schools, but our district has paid out almost \$10 million. We have received reimbursement by FEMA for other damages. The Katrina relief bill made funds available to help with salaries and other things. Biloxi school district will probably be out less than a million dollars and that is much less than everyone anticipated initially. The community disaster loans have made a big difference and whether or not those loans will be converted to grants remains a question because no one has even mentioned the possibility. The disaster loans allow districts to structure the repayment any way you like for five years with the possibility of requesting a renewal for another 5 years.

The storm struck at the end of the month on the weekend. That weekend Biloxi School District business departments as well as others stayed late to be sure that we wired the dollars to our clearing banks so that the direct deposits would make it to our employee's bank accounts. The Fed Line which connects the clearing banks to all the other banks went down and people's account did not receive the direct deposits for several days. Personnel get upset when they don't get their salaries deposited on time. This problem is something the banking system needs to rectify."

APPENDIX A:

*SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET
COMPARISONS FOR 2004-05, 2005-06,
AND 2006-07*

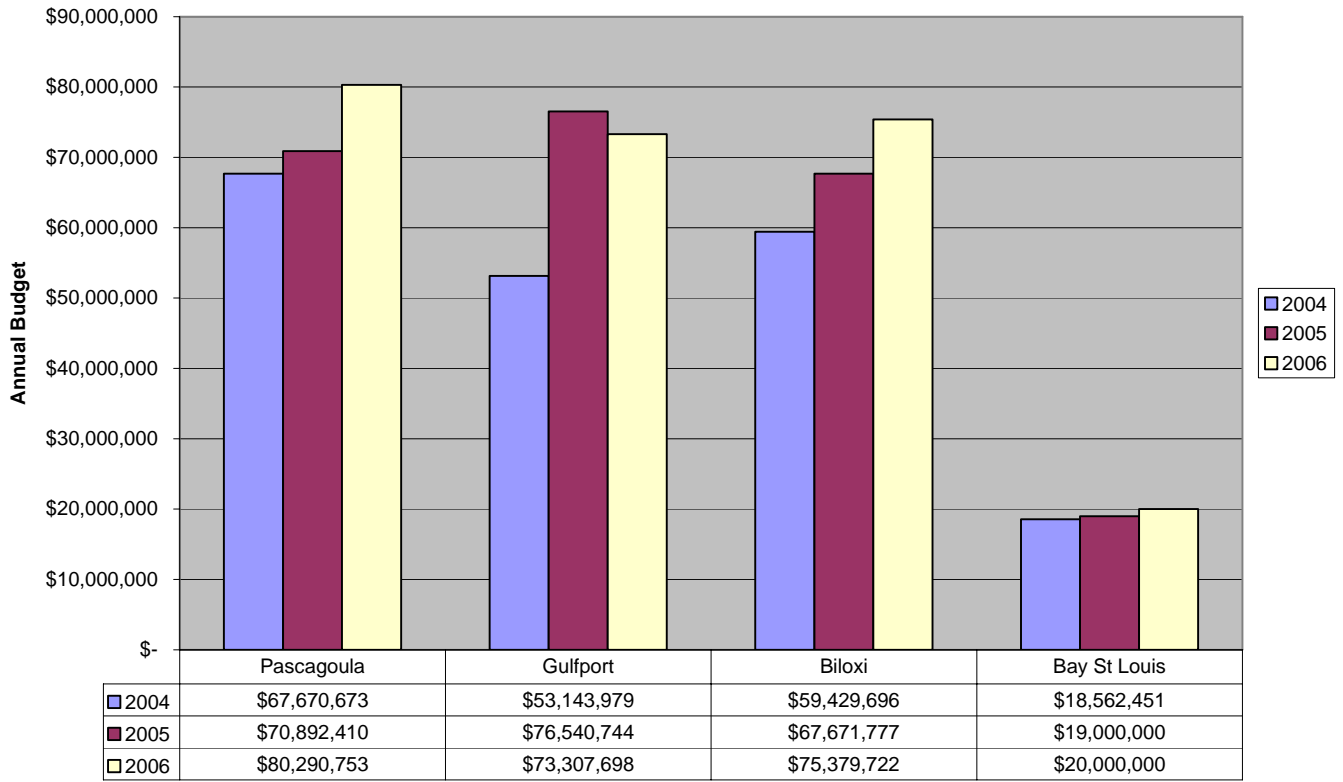
AND

*SCHOOL DISTRICT FEDERAL RELIEF
FUND RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES*

The following financial information regarding distribution of federal funds was submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education by school districts and is **unaudited**. The information was provided by the Office of School Financial Services Director: Wanda Rutland on November 29, 2006.

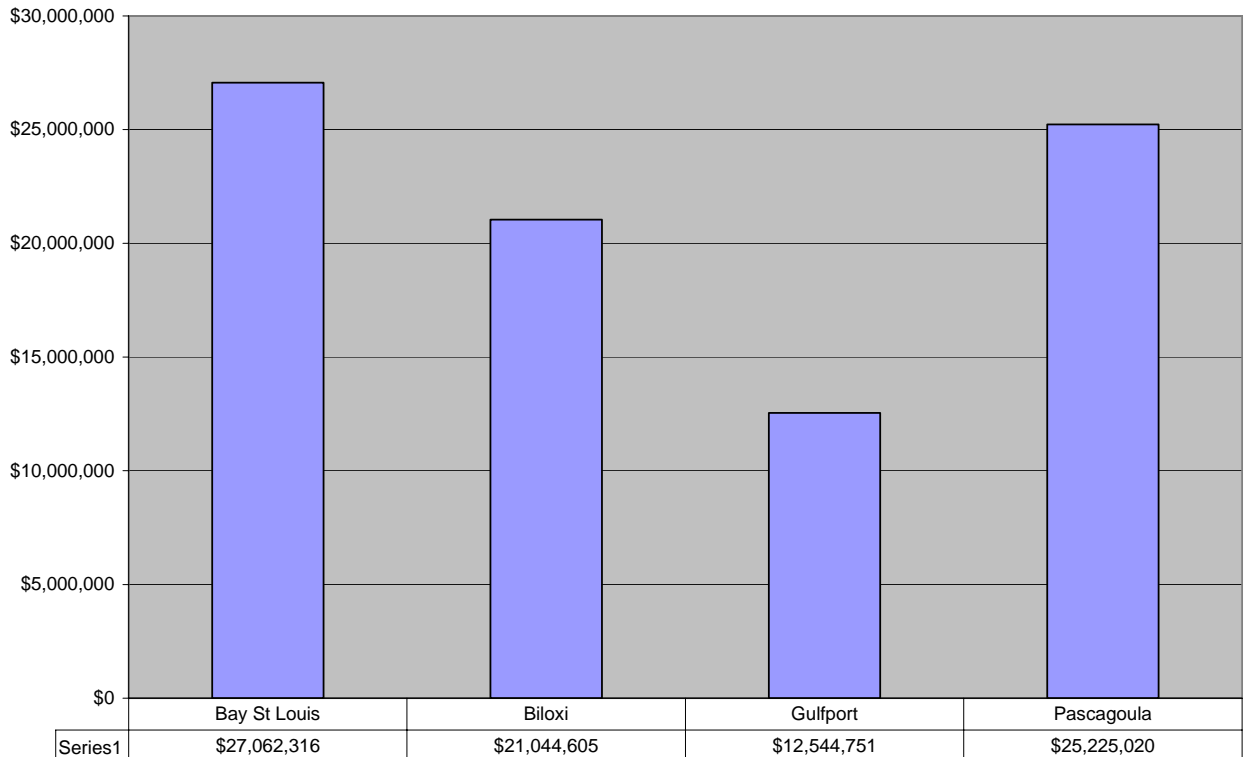
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Budget Trends for MS School Districts



School Districts

Total Federal Revenues



Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students Grants (CFDA # 84.938C)			
Districts Receiving Over \$1 Million		Revenue	Expenditures
3000	JACKSON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 8,119,345.00	\$ 8,119,345.00
2400	HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 7,404,735.00	\$ 7,404,735.00
3020	MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 5,209,984.38	\$ 5,209,984.09
2423	PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 4,459,585.00	\$ 4,459,585.00
2520	JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 4,337,119.81	\$ 4,337,119.81
2300	HANCOCK CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 3,269,565.00	\$ 3,269,565.00
2422	LONG BEACH SCHOOL DIST	\$ 3,111,095.00	\$ 3,111,095.00
3022	PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$ 2,764,255.00	\$ 2,764,255.00
2420	BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 2,709,396.38	\$ 2,709,396.38
2320	BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST	\$ 2,185,077.00	\$ 2,185,077.00
2421	GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	\$ 2,088,515.00	\$ 2,088,515.00
5520	PICAYUNE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,917,316.00	\$ 1,917,316.00
5500	PEARL RIVER CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,634,035.00	\$ 1,634,035.00
0130	NATCHEZ-ADAMS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,523,405.00	\$ 1,523,405.00
3021	OCEAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,497,990.00	\$ 1,497,990.00
6100	RANKIN CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,427,725.00	\$ 1,427,725.00

Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students Grants – Special Education			
Districts Receiving Over \$100,000		Revenue	Expenditures
2400	HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,243,841.84	\$ 1,243,841.84
3022	PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$ 728,910.00	\$ 728,910.00
2320	BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST	\$ 589,463.00	\$ 589,463.00
2421	GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	\$ 562,569.00	\$ 562,569.00
2420	BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 435,477.00	\$ 435,477.00
3020	MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 391,943.46	\$ 391,943.46
2423	PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 325,999.73	\$ 325,999.73
5500	PEARL RIVER CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 299,040.00	\$ 299,040.00
3021	OCEAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 295,302.00	\$ 295,302.00
3000	JACKSON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 229,887.00	\$ 229,887.00
1700	DESOTO CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 177,555.00	\$ 177,555.00
6100	RANKIN CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 168,210.00	\$ 168,210.00
0130	NATCHEZ-ADAMS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 166,341.00	\$ 166,341.00
1820	HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 160,734.00	\$ 160,734.00
5720	MCCOMB SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 150,997.00	\$ 150,997.00
5520	PICAYUNE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 144,314.00	\$ 144,314.00
2300	HANCOCK CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 140,175.00	\$ 140,175.00
3700	LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 110,271.00	\$ 110,271.00
3820	MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 110,271.00	\$ 110,271.00
3711	LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 108,402.00	\$ 108,402.00
7500	VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DIST	\$ 106,533.00	\$ 106,533.00
5800	PONTOTOC CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 106,533.00	\$ 106,533.00

GULFGOV Special Research Project

Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations Grants (CFDA # 84.938A)			
Schools Receiving More Than \$1 Million	Revenue		Expenditures
3022 PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$15,648,064		\$15,648,064
2400 HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$14,297,355		\$14,297,355
2421 GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	\$9,501,291		\$9,501,291
2420 BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$8,927,610		\$8,927,610
2300 HANCOCK CO SCHOOL DIST	\$6,279,701		\$6,279,701
2422 LONG BEACH SCHOOL DIST	\$5,216,503		\$5,016,766
3000 JACKSON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$5,076,203		\$5,076,203
3400 JONES CO SCHOOL DIST	\$4,376,007		\$4,376,007
1820 HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$4,152,374		\$4,152,374
2320 BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST	\$3,701,073		\$3,701,073
1800 FORREST COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$3,482,536		\$3,148,432
2423 PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$3,470,268		\$3,470,268
3020 MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	\$3,248,592		\$3,248,592
3700 LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$2,895,441		\$2,895,441
1821 PETAL SCHOOL DIST	\$2,784,429		\$2,734,429
3420 LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$2,629,360		\$2,629,360
5530 POPLARVILLE SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	\$2,527,381		\$2,527,381
5520 PICAYUNE SCHOOL DIST	\$2,406,403		\$2,344,975
6600 STONE CO SCHOOL DIST	\$1,978,041		\$1,978,041
4620 COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$1,529,513		\$1,529,513
1600 COVINGTON CO SCHOOLS	\$1,488,234		\$1,419,332
4600 MARION CO SCHOOL DIST	\$1,390,330		\$1,390,330
5500 PEARL RIVER CO SCHOOL DIST	\$1,328,680		\$1,328,680
7400 WALTHALL CO SCHOOL DIST	\$1,242,708		\$1,242,708

GULFGOV Special Research Project

Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students Grants – Nonpublic/Parochial			
Public School Districts Receiving Funds	Revenue		Expenditures
2420 BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,712,725.00		\$ 1,712,725.00
2320 BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST	\$ 1,277,309.75		\$ 1,277,309.75
3022 PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$ 676,943.75		\$ 676,943.75
2422 LONG BEACH SCHOOL DIST	\$ 585,812.25		\$ 585,812.25
2520 JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 408,135.00		\$ 387,330.00
2421 GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	\$ 392,376.00		\$ 356,379.00
4500 MADISON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 331,497.44		\$ 331,497.44
0130 NATCHEZ-ADAMS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 315,305.00		\$ 315,305.00
2400 HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 230,627.00		\$ 230,627.00
1820 HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 168,050.00		\$ 168,050.00
5720 MCCOMB SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 153,985.00		\$ 153,985.00
7500 VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DIST	\$ 139,464.00		\$ 139,464.00
3021 OCEAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 80,730.00		
2423 PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 53,733.75		\$ 53,733.75
1700 DESOTO CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00
2521 CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 16,375.00		\$ 16,375.00
7613 WESTERN LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 15,456.00		\$ 15,456.00
5412 SOUTH PANOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 12,325.00		\$ 12,325.00
3111 EAST JASPER CONSOLIDATED SCH DIST	\$ 9,603.00		\$ 9,603.00
6312 SOUTH DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 7,654.00		\$ 7,654.00
6120 PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 5,001.00		\$ 5,001.00
0800 CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
3700 LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 2,643.35		\$ 2,643.35

Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students Grants – Nonpublic/Parochial Special Education			
The Only School to Receive Funds To Date	Revenue		Expenditure
3022 PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$ 40,325.00		\$ 40,325.00

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Homeless Youth Assistance Program (CFDA # 84.938B)			
The Only School Districts to Receive Funds TD	Revenue		Expenditure
0130 NATCHEZ-ADAMS SCHOOL DIST	\$ 54,069.75		\$ 54,069.75
1700 DESOTO CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00
7500 VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DIST	\$ 8,891.41		\$ 8,891.41
3020 MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 5,994.00		\$ 5,994.00
3420 LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 3,013.00		\$ 3,013.00

FEMA / MEMA Grants (Disaster Grants – Public Assistance CFDA # 97.036)			
Districts Receiving More Than \$1 Million	Revenue		Expenditure
2320 BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST	\$19,309,393.10		\$ 19,179,906.10
2423 PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 9,332,369.37		\$ 9,332,369.37
3000 JACKSON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 8,010,048.23		\$ 5,369,004.62
2420 BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 7,243,796.15		\$ 5,880,673.28
3022 PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$ 5,342,991.58		\$ 5,342,991.58
2300 HANCOCK CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 2,542,685.22		\$ 2,384,500.74
2422 LONG BEACH SCHOOL DIST	\$ 2,398,694.94		\$ 2,350,874.96
1800 FORREST COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 1,076,706.98		\$ 446,818.89
5520 PICAYUNE SCHOOL DIST	\$ 486,989.73		\$ 451,029.34
1820 HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 203,951.51		\$ 203,951.51
6100 RANKIN CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 125,225.00		\$ 125,225.00
5600 PERRY CO SCHOOL DIST	\$ 118,189.11		
2521 CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$ 117,974.53		\$ 117,974.53
3420 LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$ 114,985.31		\$ 78,418.95
1802 FORREST COUNTY AG HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 103,759.53		

GULFGOV Special Research Project

Project SERV (CFDA # 84.184S)			
The Only Districts to Receive Funds	Revenue		Expenditure
2300 HANCOCK CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	53,517.98	\$ 53,517.98
5500 PEARL RIVER CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	52,726.76	\$ 51,865.70
2400 HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	42,288.07	\$ 42,288.07
1500 COPIAH CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	39,950.72	\$ 39,950.72
2521 CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$	33,998.24	\$ 33,998.24
3700 LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$	33,955.23	\$ 33,955.23
7500 VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DIST	\$	33,220.47	\$ 33,220.47
1800 FORREST COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$	24,022.01	\$ 17,812.83
3022 PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST	\$	23,530.50	\$ 23,530.50
0300 AMITE CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	18,503.38	\$ 18,503.38
2420 BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	\$	15,600.16	\$ 15,600.16
5520 PICAYUNE SCHOOL DIST	\$	14,067.88	\$ 14,067.88
3020 MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST	\$	13,900.43	\$ 13,900.43
3300 JEFFERSON DAVIS CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	8,931.35	\$ 8,931.35

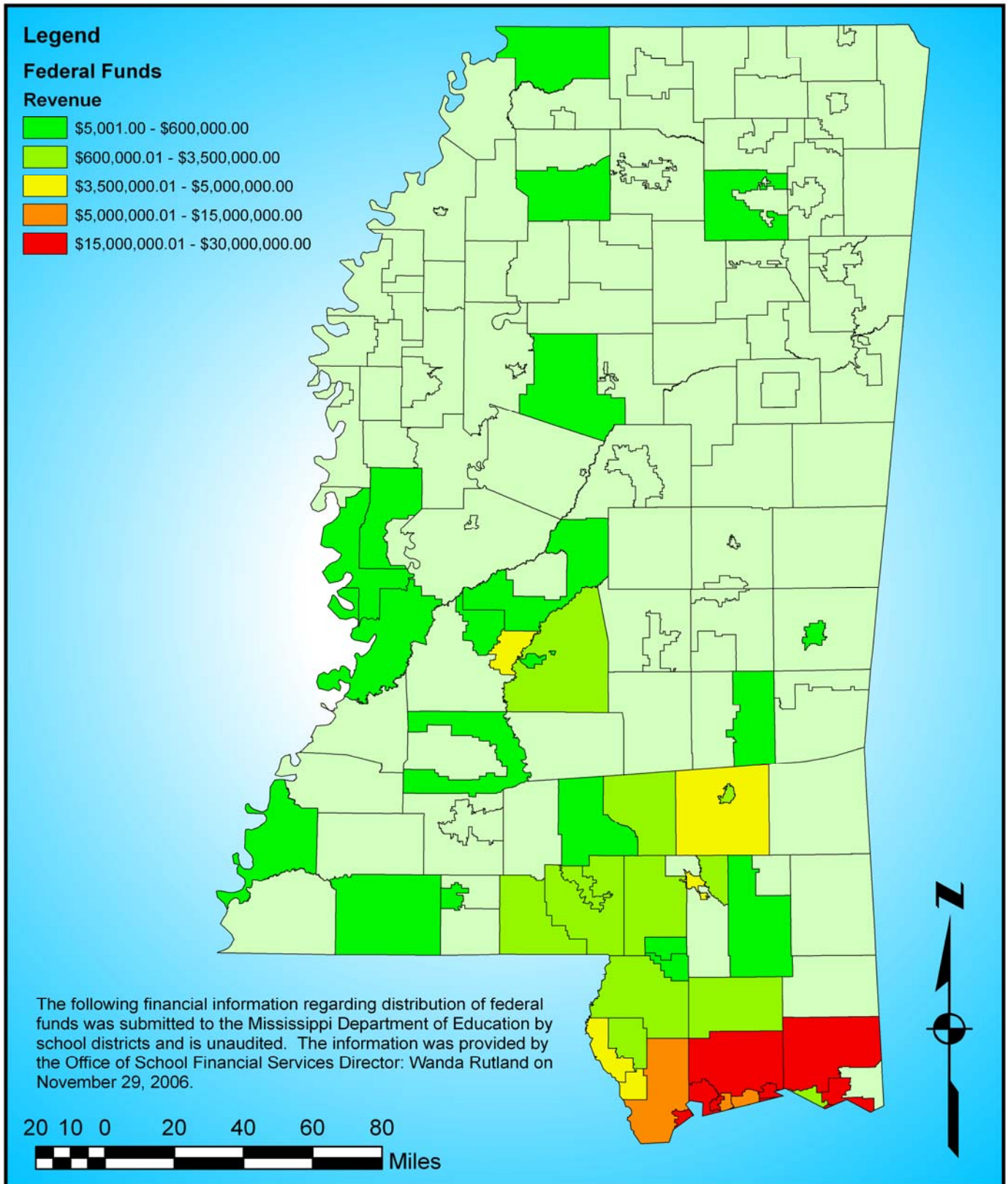
Other Disaster Relief Grants			
Only Schools To Receive Funds To Date	Revenue		Expenditure
5600 PERRY CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	400,000.00	\$ 334,941.07
5500 PEARL RIVER CO SCHOOL DIST	\$	10,003.87	\$ 8,481.00

	Revenue		Expenditure
MISSISSIPPI's Grand Total FEDERAL DOLLARS	\$232,618,626		\$226,429,249
2320 BAY ST LOUIS WAVELAND SCHOOL DIST Total	\$27,062,316		\$26,932,829
3022 PASCAGOULA SCHOOL DIST Total	\$25,225,020		\$25,225,020
2400 HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$23,218,847		\$23,218,847
3000 JACKSON CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$21,435,483		\$18,794,439
2420 BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$21,044,605		\$19,681,482
2423 PASS CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$17,641,956		\$17,641,956
2421 GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST Total	\$12,544,751		\$12,508,754
2300 HANCOCK CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$12,285,645		\$12,127,460
2422 LONG BEACH SCHOOL DIST Total	\$11,312,105		\$11,064,548
3020 MOSS POINT SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST Total	\$8,870,415		\$8,870,414
5520 PICAYUNE SCHOOL DIST Total	\$4,969,091		\$4,871,702
2520 JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$4,745,255		\$4,724,450
1820 HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$4,685,110		\$4,685,110
1800 FORREST COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$4,583,265		\$3,613,064
3400 JONES CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$4,376,007		\$4,376,007
5500 PEARL RIVER CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$3,324,486		\$3,322,101
3700 LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$3,042,311		\$3,042,311
1821 PETAL SCHOOL DIST Total	\$2,784,429		\$2,734,429

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3420 LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$2,747,358		\$2,710,791
5530 POPLARVILLE SEPARATE SCHOOL DIST Total	\$2,527,381		\$2,527,381
6600 STONE CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$1,978,041		\$1,978,041
3021 OCEAN SPRINGS SCHOOL DIST Total	\$1,874,022		\$1,793,292
6100 RANKIN CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$1,721,160		\$1,721,160
4620 COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$1,529,513		\$1,529,513
1600 COVINGTON CO SCHOOLS Total	\$1,488,234		\$1,419,332
4600 MARION CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$1,390,330		\$1,390,330
7400 WALTHALL CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$1,242,708		\$1,242,708
0130 NATCHEZ-ADAMS SCHOOL DIST Total	\$535,716		\$535,716
5600 PERRY CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$518,189		\$334,941
4500 MADISON CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$331,497		\$331,497
5720 MCCOMB SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$304,982		\$304,982
7500 VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DIST Total	\$288,109		\$288,109
1700 DESOTO CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$272,555		\$272,555
2521 CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$168,348		\$168,348
3820 MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$110,271		\$110,271
3711 LUMBERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$108,402		\$108,402
5800 PONTOTOC CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$106,533		\$106,533
1802 FORREST COUNTY AG HIGH SCHOOL Total	\$103,760		\$0
1500 COPIAH CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$39,951		\$39,951
0300 AMITE CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$18,503		\$18,503
7613 WESTERN LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$15,456		\$15,456
5412 SOUTH PANOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$12,325		\$12,325
3111 EAST JASPER CONSOLIDATED SCH DIST Total	\$9,603		\$9,603
3300 JEFFERSON DAVIS CO SCHOOL DIST Total	\$8,931		\$8,931
6312 SOUTH DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT Total	\$7,654		\$7,654
6120 PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST Total	\$5,001		\$5,001
0800 CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL DIST Total	\$3,000		\$3,000

Federal Funds: Revenue as of Nov. 29th, 2006



Thematic Map Illustrating the Amount of Federal Revenues Received by School Districts



Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY

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