



## THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

TO: CIAC Member Schools  
FROM: Karissa Niehoff, Gregg Simon  
RE: Displaced students  
DATE: October 2, 2017

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Commissioner of Education, Dr. Dianna Wentzell, recently released a letter to superintendents and other education agencies that provides guidance to schools regarding students displaced by the recent hurricanes. These students may or may not be traveling with their families as they take refuge with friends or relations in Connecticut. Students who come to us without parents or legal guardians will likely qualify as "unaccompanied homeless youth" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and must be provided the rights and services guaranteed them per this statute. As such, they should be immediately enrolled in our public schools.

Questions have arisen as to the eligibility of displaced students to participate in CIAC sponsored interscholastic athletics. Displaced students will likely arrive in Connecticut with no school records or other paperwork that is typically necessary to establish eligibility.

The CIAC recommends that schools do their best to determine age and academic performance as they consider whether or not a displaced student should become eligible. We will hold firm on the age requirement; that is a student cannot participate in a sport if he/she will turn 20 during that season. However, if no academic records are available, we encourage schools to allow participation until academic performance can be documented and further eligibility considered. The students coming to us as a result of the hurricanes have suffered tremendous loss; involvement with a team could provide some positivity in their lives as they work to rebuild their communities.

If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance please call our office at 203-250-1111.