

FY18 Puerto Rico USVI Hurricane Relief

On April 19, 2018, MA DESE released the first of two fiscal year 2018 payments to assist districts serving students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands displaced by last fall's hurricanes. This first payment distributes \$6.7 million out of the total \$15 million supplemental appropriation, of which \$633,752 has been provided to the Worcester Public Schools.

These funds are allocated based on each qualifying district's fiscal year 2018 foundation budget per pupil amount. This rate is adjusted by each district's Chapter 70 aid as a percent of foundation so that the supplemental funding reflects the same level of state support that districts are receiving. The adjusted rate is converted to a daily rate by dividing by 180 days and multiplied by the total number of days that displaced students were enrolled in the district between October 2, 2017 and March 1, 2018 to determine the first payment. For Worcester, the FY18 rate being used is \$8,836 per student (comprised of the \$12,356 FY18 foundation budget rate per pupil x Chapter 70 share of foundation budget at 71.512%).

The first payment has been distributed to districts and DESE requires that these funds must be deposited in a separate account and may be spent by the school committee without further action on the part of the local appropriating authority through June 30, 2019. Any unspent funds can carryforward to fiscal year 2019.

A second payment will be made for students enrolled from March 2, 2018 through the end of the school year. It is also expected that a third payment will be made in FY19 for students that remain enrolled in the district as of October 1, 2018. These students would then be captured in the FY20 foundation enrollment for funding purposes.

The Administration is anticipating \$2 million in both FY18 and FY19 payments and these funds be used entirely in FY19 as noted on page 142 of FY19 budget book. The funds have been allocated in the budget to provide funding for 26 teaching positions.