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TO: Chief School Administrator
Charter School Leader

FROM: Christopher D. Cerf, Commissioner

SUBJECT: NJDOE Hurricane Sandy Update – 11-14-12

As of today, all but a handful of schools are open and serving students. Those that are not open have a plan for all of their students at alternative settings. I want to thank each of you for the tremendous effort to get schools open, especially those of you that went the extra mile to find creative solutions to help get students into classrooms.

Our focus is now turning to two other challenges. First, how can we make sure that all students, including students displaced by the storm, are in schools and learning? Second, how can we help districts with structural or other building damage get the targeted resources and support they need to rebuild?

We are opening two new data collections in Homeroom today to enable us to help you in these efforts. These collections can be found at <http://homeroom.state.nj.us/>.

First, we are asking districts to report individual students whose whereabouts are unknown as a result of Hurricane Sandy. If a student has not attended school since October 26 and you have not been able to reach him or her, please enter that student's information into this spreadsheet. You do not need to notify us if a student was displaced but is being served by another district and the change was made within NJSMART, but instead only if you have not had any contact. We will use this information to assist you in locating these students by coordinating with shelters and available statewide databases of displaced individuals.

As a reminder, if your district is serving a displaced student, we encourage you to immediately update that student's status within NJSMART, which will notify the student's district of origin of his or her status.

Second, we are asking districts to submit more detailed information about building damage so that we can help to coordinate state and federal efforts to help you rebuild and take advantage of available state or federal resources. While a number of districts have already submitted some initial

information, this is an opportunity to provide more specific information that will allow us to better support your recovery efforts. Any district that did not submit information last week is invited to submit through this collection.

Over the next few days, I will send additional information about philanthropic funding opportunities to help schools recover and will also address other outstanding questions we have been receiving.

CDC/gm