



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

**DATE:** October 19, 2018

**TO:** Division Superintendents

**FROM:** James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: FEMA Approval of Virginia's Request for Hurricane Florence Major Disaster Declaration**

This is to inform all school divisions that on October 15, 2018, Governor Ralph Northam announced that the President has approved Virginia's request for a major disaster declaration to facilitate aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal aid to the Commonwealth in response to the September 8-21, 2018, impacts of Hurricane Florence. The Governor's news release is available at: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2018/october/headline-832610-en.html>. This action will trigger the release of federal funds to help communities recover from Hurricane Florence. FEMA funds awarded to Virginia will provide reimbursement for up to 75 percent of local and state costs incurred as the Commonwealth prepared for and responded to the storm.

Currently, federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair and replacement of facilities damaged by Hurricane Florence in the following localities: Henry, King and Queen, Lancaster, Nelson, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Russell counties and the cities of Newport News, Richmond, and Williamsburg. Other localities may be added at a later date.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for all areas statewide. This funding may include:

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for debris removal and emergency protective measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. Emergency protective measures assistance, including direct federal assistance, is available to the Commonwealth and local governments on a cost-sharing basis. (Source: FEMA funded, Commonwealth administered).

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities and publicly owned property, such as public schools. (Source: FEMA funded, Commonwealth administered).
- Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by the Commonwealth and local governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural disasters. (Source: FEMA funded, Commonwealth administered).

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) coordinates local government projects and administers the funding on behalf of FEMA. For more information, school divisions can visit <http://www.vaemergency.gov/prepare-recover/>, and also coordinate with their local governments and local emergency management coordinators.

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