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May 12, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
School Principals

FROM: Robert Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: "Family Crisis" Law's New Requirements for School Districts

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1 (P.L. 2013 c. 231), school districts are now required to continue to enroll and transport students who move out of the school district during the academic year when the move results from a family crisis. In addition, the law requires the Department of Education to reimburse the school district for the additional costs of transporting the student between the school of attendance and the student's new out-of-district residence. The new requirements ensure that students who are affected by a family crisis and are enrolled in a public school district, or in a charter school, choice program, or PSSD, may continue to attend the same school (with transportation) for the remainder of the school year. The new law *does not* affect existing regulations or State and federal laws that govern the rights of homeless students.

The original school district of residence, in conjunction with the county office of education, has the primary responsibility for implementing the new law. Therefore it is critical for all administrators of school districts and schools enrolling public school students to review the new requirements. The rules can be found in N.J.A.C 6A:22-3.2(h) as part of the Student Residency chapter, and are available through the following link: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap22.pdf>.

Please contact your county office of education with any questions you may have regarding the new family crisis law and corresponding regulations.

RB/YT/KD

c: Members, State Board of Education
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