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**Department of Public Instruction**  
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Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead  
State Superintendent

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead

DATE: March 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Student Displacement Caused by Red River Flooding

The damage caused by the flooding in the Red River valley is devastating and has caused the displacement of people from their residences, jobs and the services they normally depend upon. I know that all North Dakotans are extending themselves to assist those who are displaced and I want to encourage all North Dakota school districts to accommodate displaced students arriving from other districts. It is possible that such arrangements will need to be continued from as little as a week or as long as through the end of the school year.

In specific terms this means that all North Dakota school districts should accept students from flooded areas who wish to continue their schooling for the balance of this school year. I encourage you to enroll the students immediately and make every effort to give them a meaningful educational experience for the balance of the school year. We know that many students from Fargo and other areas in the Valley either have been displaced or will be displaced by continued flooding and evacuation. We will provide you with additional information shortly regarding the status of foundation aid payments for these out of district students. Student enrollment and membership status should remain local at this time. You will be provided with additional information regarding state reporting at a later date.

All available USDA commodities have been released for use in congregate feeding sites. Commodities currently stored and available in schools may be used for all necessary meal service. Our office can assist in the shipment of additional commodities, if necessary for resupply. DPI will work through disaster organizations such as Red Cross and the Salvation Army for disaster feeding. Contact the Food Distribution office toll free at 1-888-338-3663 for further information. Please keep a record of commodities used for congregate feeding, and the source of those commodities.

We recommend that children from the evacuated areas who are attending your school be served meals at no charge. More detailed instructions for claiming reimbursement and compensation for lunches served will be provided in the near future.

In closing let me emphasize that we face a disaster situation in North Dakota. It will take the best efforts of all of us to meet the needs of people affected by these circumstances. Please feel free to call our offices if you have questions about any aspect of dealing with this crisis.