

ISTE news

Hurricane Survivors Benefit from Scholarships



As part of ongoing and varied hurricane relief efforts, ISTE contributed \$1,800 for scholarships to educators to attend the conferences of several Affiliate organizations in the regions affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. More than a dozen educators will take advantage of the professional development opportunities their local affiliate provides by attending an annual conference and putting their newfound knowledge toward rebuilding their schools. Participating affiliates are MECA (Mississippi), LACUE (Louisiana), and TCEA (Texas).

Scholarship recipients submitted applications that included their experiences of Hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita. Here are just a few snippets from those stories.

“Ninety-five percent of our homes were destroyed or left unlivable by Hurricane Rita. ... We have no grocery store, no gas station, no

business of any kind. ... The school is what is holding our small community together.”

—Walter Fenn, Sabine Pass ISD, Texas

“After the storm, I drove to the school and found windows out ... and trees down. I kept going, and then I saw the roof. The problem was that it was in the middle of the parking lot. It was not half on the building, it was not right beside the building, it was down the sidewalk, over the awning, and laying in the parking lot. It was not just shingles or the metal roofing, it was actually the whole top of the building. Thanks for thinking of us during this hard time. Sometimes it seems like the relief efforts for Katrina are so great and widespread that people suffering from Rita get left out.”

—Cathy Hamilton, Grade 3 Teacher, Burkeville Elementary School, Texas

ISTE Takes the Lead in CALEA Debate

ISTE spearheaded the K–12 community’s response to recent FCC rulings on the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

Passed in 1994, CALEA requires telecommunications carriers to install equipment to facilitate law enforcement’s ability to wiretap. Since 2001, the FBI and the Department of Justice have sought to extend CALEA to the Internet, thereby requiring Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to install standard equipment to enhance law enforcement’s ability to “wiretap” digital packets over the Internet.

In mid-October, the FCC issued an Order requiring “facilities-based” ISPs to be CALEA compliant within 18 months. It’s not clear from the language of the Order whether K–12 schools are the type of Internet provider that must be wiretap-able or whether they are exempt from the CALEA requirement.

“Our position,” says Hilary Goldmann, ISTE’s Director of Government Affairs, “is that schools should be exempt from CALEA compliance. We want a clear statement of that exemption.”

Eight U.S. associations joined ISTE in submitting comments to the FCC arguing that K–12 schools are and should be exempt. A final ruling is not expected for quite some time.

The following associations joined ISTE:

- American Association of School Administrators
- Association of Educational Service Agencies
- Consortium on School Networking
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
- National Association of Independent Schools
- National Education Association
- National School Boards Association

We’re Moving ... in More Ways Than One

ISTE will move its Eugene, Oregon, office and distribution center this month to 175 West Broadway, Suite 300, Eugene, OR 97401-3003. The move is prompted by the need for additional space due to our growing operations and staff. ISTE currently has 64 employees in the Eugene office.

