

Links to Resources

[Summary:] The following links provide resources to organizations addressing education challenges facing the Gulf Coast following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Student Voices

[Organization:] Center for Community Change

[Title:] “Dismantling a Community.” (2006)

[Summary:] “Dismantling a Community”, a publication from the Center for Community Change, chronicles the selling-off of New Orleans Schools in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of seasoned teachers have been let go and teacher's unions have been decimated while some \$40 million has been spent to turn the New Orleans education system into a complex web of individually operated schools where parents have to vie for a quality education for their children. Dismantling a Community tells the consequences of the ongoing assault that privatization advocates have unleashed on the fragile neighborhoods of New Orleans.

[Link:] <http://www.communitychange.org/issues/education/publications/>

Teacher Issues:

[Organization:] American Association of University Professors

[Title:] “Report of an AAUP Special Committee: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Universities.” (2007)

[Summary:] In a new report, the Special Committee on Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Universities of the American Association of University Professors finds that there was “nearly universal departure from (or in some cases complete abandonment of) personnel and other policies” by five New Orleans institutions—the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, the University of New Orleans, Southern University at New Orleans, Loyola University New Orleans, and Tulane University—as they contended with the disaster that befell the city and its universities.

[Link:] <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/protectrights/academicfreedom/investrep/2007/katrina.htm>

[Organization:] American Federation of Teachers Report

[Title:] “Katrina Survivors Tell their Tales” (September 2006)

[Summary:] There is no conversation about the hurricanes of 2005 that doesn't evoke emotion. During the American Federation of Teachers Convention 2006, four union leaders from the Gulf Coast region shared their stories, which are also the stories of their members. They spoke to delegates of the faith that carried them through the darkest hours, their belief in public education, the union that enfolded them and—in contrast—the federal government that abandoned them.

[Link:] http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_teacher/sept06/katrina.htm

School and Student Conditions

[Organization:] The Boston Consulting Group

[Title:] “The State of Public Education in New Orleans.” (June 2007)

[Summary:] In the nearly two years since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, a fundamentally different public school system has emerged. This report is an assessment that provides a baseline of information about how the current system is doing and outlines a set of immediately actionable recommendations for the city that will help achieve the goal of quality

education for all public school students. Recommendations are created to support transformation efforts over the next two to three years.

[Link:] http://www.bcg.com/publications/publications_search_results.jsp?PUBID=2327

[Organization:] The John C. Stennis Institute of Government

[Title:] “Special Report: A Look at Recovery, Roles, and Capacity of Mississippi Coastal School Districts Struggling and Rebounding After Hurricane Katrina.” (November 2006)

[Summary:] A Look at Recovery, Roles, and Capacity of Mississippi Coastal School Districts Struggling and Rebounding After Hurricane Katrina

[Link:] <http://www.msgovt.org/policy.html>

[Organization:] RAND Corporation

[Title:] “Student Displacement in Louisiana After the Hurricanes of 2005: Experiences of Public Schools and Their Students.” (2006)

[Summary:] Hurricane Katrina was the most costly and devastating natural disaster in U.S. history. It and Hurricane Rita combined left the Gulf region with tremendous challenges for recovery and the need to rebuild infrastructure and reestablish services. The report, “Student Displacement in Louisiana After the Hurricanes of 2005,” focuses on the displacement of approximately 200,000 public school students in Louisiana. To help guide educators and policymakers in their ongoing responses to this disaster and in their preparations for future events, this technical report documents many of the short-term effects of the movements of students caused by the storms.

[Link:] http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR430

Rebuilding & Re-visioning Education

[Organization:] Center for Social Inclusion.

[Title:] “The Race to Rebuild: The Color of Opportunity and the Future of New Orleans” (2006)

[Summary:] “The Race to Rebuild” analyzes existing data on the progress of rebuilding New Orleans' communities. It also examines existing rebuilding policies to show that current policies are both insufficient to assist Black New Orleanians to return or rebuild their lives and that White New Orleanians would have improved opportunities if the federal government responds to their fellow New Orleanians structural barriers to return. The report gives grades to progress in indicators including housing, healthcare, education and utilities.

[Link:] <http://www.centerforsocialinclusion.org/racetorebuild.html>

[Organization:] Children’s Defense Fund

[Title:] “Katrina’s Children: A Call to Conscience and Action”

[Summary:] The Children’s Defense Fund’s report, “Katrina’s Children: A Call to Conscience and Action” urges immediate mental health and health services to children struggling to cope with lasting trauma in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

[Link:] <http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageNavigator/Katrina>

[Organization:] Greater New Orleans Community Data Center

“The Katrina Index: Tracking & Recovery of New Orleans the Metro Area.” (2006-07)

[Summary:] The Greater New Orleans Community Data Center is a product of Greater New Orleans Nonprofit Knowledge Works. The Data Center is building sustainable sources of data and information to support nonprofit planning in a rapidly changing post-catastrophe environment.

Data is presented in a highly usable web format to increase the New Orleans nonprofit sector's access to this essential information.

[Link:] <http://www.gnocdc.org>

[Organization:] TruthOut

[Title:] "Fighting for the Right to Learn: Report on Results of the Public Education Experiment in New Orleans Two Years After Katrina"

[Summary:] Bill Quigley reports on the massive public school experiment being conducted in New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina. He draws a clear distinction between children being educated in charter schools versus the Recovery School District (RSD) program.

[Link:] http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/080907A.shtml

[Organization:] The Urban Institute

[Title:] "After Katrina: Rebuilding Opportunity and Equity into the *New New Orleans*." (April 2006)

[Summary:] In the months since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, shock has given way to deep concern about what to do now, next, and down the road to bring back this unique city to social, cultural and economic health. Many of New Orleans' problems, which—to varying degrees—afflict other U.S. central cities, predated the storm. Widespread poverty, a failing public education system, low wages, and a weak tax base are just some. In *After Katrina: Rebuilding Opportunity and Equity into the New New Orleans*, urbanists, health and labor economists, education and housing experts, and other Urban Institute researchers chart paths out of the immediate emergency situation with proposals for rebuilding the social infrastructure of New Orleans.

[Link:] <http://www.urban.org/publications/311406.html>