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November 2, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Leads
School Principals

FROM: Yut'se Thomas, Director
Office of School Finance

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

The purpose of this memo is to remind school districts that, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1* (P.L. 2013 c. 231), they are required to continue to enroll and transport students who move out of the 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 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 private school for students with disabilities (PSSD), may continue to attend the same school with transportation for the remainder of the school year. The law *does not* affect existing regulations or state and federal laws that govern the rights of homeless students or students in resource home placements.

The original school district of residence, in conjunction with the county office of education, has the primary responsibility for implementing this law. Therefore, it is critical for all administrators of school districts and schools enrolling public school students to review the requirements. The rules can be found in *N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(h)* as part of the [Student Residency chapter](#). Instructions for reimbursement are available [online](#). All reimbursement requests are submitted to the county offices at the end of the fiscal year.

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

KD/YT

c: Members, State Board of Education
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