



## **SPECIAL STATE BOARD MEETING CONFERENCE CALL**

September 26, 2005

4:00 p.m.

State Board Office – Bell Conference Room

### **A G E N D A**

- 4:00 p.m.**      1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Tuition Waivers for Students Dislocated by  
                  Hurricane Katrina (**Resolution 05-09-21**) (**Action**)      **TAB 1**
- 4:30 p.m.**      3. Adjourn Special Meeting

**Subject** (Action)

A resolution (effective immediately) authorizing local college boards of trustees to establish an operating fee waiver for citizens from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina (Resolution 05-09-21).

**Background**

Immediately following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina, the two-year colleges in the State of Washington began receiving numerous inquiries related to the Katrina relief effort. The Governor's Office and the Colleges in particular have been interested in the State Board's willingness to authorize a tuition waiver for the specific purpose of assisting Gulf Coast evacuees who have relocated to Washington. As a result of those inquiries, State Board staff convened a conference call with the Presidents' Executive Committee on Monday September 19 to discuss this issue and gather feedback. Staff also sought feedback from the rest of the presidents via an email message requesting their input.

Following this input from the college presidents, staff believes it is appropriate for the State Board to call a special board meeting for the purpose of creating a specific operating fee waiver authority for the colleges to utilize at their local discretion.

Additional authority is needed because the colleges do not have an adequate tuition waiver authority at this time for this specific purpose. Currently colleges could rely on the "needy" waiver (RCW 28B.15.740), but that is capped at three-quarters of one percent of all tuition revenues for non-resident students. With the existing utilization of this waiver, the cap could be problematic if more than a few evacuees register at any one college. Over the last five years, most colleges have also adopted a non-resident tuition differential waiver that was granted to them by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges under the authority of RCW 28B.15.915. However, that authority only allows colleges to discount operating fees down to the resident rates. What is not provided by the two waiver categories described above is the ability for colleges to waive the entire operating fee (even the resident rate) for Gulf Coast evacuees if they show in numbers greater than one or two at a given college. Nor can colleges offer a specific categorical waiver for certain non-residents at this time without offering it to every non-resident.

To provide colleges with the authority to waive all tuition for this specific group of people, the State Board will need to adopt a separate operating fee waiver under the authority of RCW 28B.15.915. (Please see Governor's proclamation attached.)

**Recommendation**

State Board staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 05-09-21 authorizing local community college boards of trustees to adopt a specific tuition waiver to address evacuees who have come to the State of Washington following the effects of Hurricane Katrina.



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PO Box 40002 • Olympia, WA 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • FAX: (360) 753-6466

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR**

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coasts of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama on August 29, 2005 causing catastrophic damage to public infrastructure and homes, leading to the temporary evacuation of citizens from the most severely damaged areas to various locations, including Washington State.

**WHEREAS**, on September 2, 2005 the Federal Emergency Management Agency asked states to evaluate their ability to receive people displaced from their homes as a result of the hurricane;

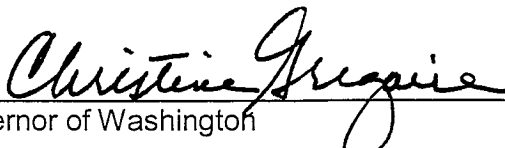
**WHEREAS**, Emergency Reception activities involving these individuals will overwhelm the capacities of public and private response and recovery resources in the State of Washington;

**WHEREAS**, Washington National Guard staff augmentation is required for successful provision of the federally requested assistance;

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Military Department has activated the State Emergency Operations Center, implemented response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts of the disaster survivors and potential providers of assistance;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Christine Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, in light of the aforementioned situation and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, and RCWs 38.10.010 and 74.08.090, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout the state of Washington and direct the supporting plans and procedures to the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*, be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to use all available and appropriate state and federal resources within their control and to do everything possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event. I also hereby order into active state service the Washington National Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority. Additionally, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, is instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the state of Washington to be affixed at Olympia, this 4th day of September, A. D., Two Thousand and Five.

  
Governor of Washington

STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

RESOLUTION 05-09-21

A resolution (effective immediately) authorizing local college boards of trustees to establish an operating fee waiver for citizens from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

**WHEREAS** Hurricane Katrina has created substantial devastation to colleges and universities throughout the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; and

**WHEREAS** thousands of students have been displaced from their communities and have been unable to engage in their higher education goals as a result of the hurricane; and

**WHEREAS** the Governor of the State of Washington, Christine O. Gregoire, has declared a State of Emergency in Washington and has mobilized public agencies to respond to displaced citizens from the gulf region; and

**WHEREAS** the State Board has the authority to authorize tuition waivers in accordance with RCW 28B.15.915;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes local college boards of trustees to establish a tuition waiver to be utilized only by students from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida who were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina and who seek entrance into a Washington Community College:

1. Colleges may waive all or a portion of operating fees for a period not to exceed one year from the date of adoption.
2. Local boards of trustees must take formal action to adopt a local waiver for this purpose before a grant of the waiver may be provided to entering students.
3. Any college that chooses to adopt a waiver for this purpose shall use a uniform code (fee pay status) established by the Center for Information Services in consultation with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
4. Waivers granted for this purpose will not be included in the statutory waiver limit established by RCW 28B.15.910 for the community colleges as a whole.
5. Each college shall establish their own policies for documenting a displaced student from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, or Florida.
6. Colleges are encouraged to work with the Governor's Office, The Military Department of the State of Washington, other state and local agencies, and local non-profit organizations, to coordinate response efforts and benefits to displaced students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges grants to local boards of trustees the flexibility to implement this waiver authority by all means necessary to address issues not explicitly identified in this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges delegates to the executive director the authority to expand the scope of this temporary waiver to address emergent needs as declared or instructed from the Office of the Governor of the State of Washington.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on September 26, 2005.

---

Jim Garrison, Chair

**ATTEST:**

---

Earl Hale, Secretary