



**KIPP HOUSTON WORKING TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN NEED
FOLLOWING HURRICANE HARVEY**

Fund established to help families; Rescue and recovery efforts underway across much of Houston

Houston, TX – August 28, 2017 – KIPP Houston Public Schools, like many other school districts across the city, has been severely affected by the flooding and damage from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey which touched down on Friday, August 25 as a Category 4 storm. To proactively support students, families, and staff across the region, KIPP Houston leadership has been working around the clock to communicate and align resources. Numerous KIPP students and their families have had to evacuate their homes and seek refuge in shelters across the city.

On Sunday August 27, KIPP Houston Superintendent Sehba Ali announced the creation of a KIPP Houston Family Emergency Fund which will supplement the needs of families across the region. All donations are earmarked for families impacted by the storm. Donations can be made at www.kipphouston.org/donate.

“The outpouring of support from our board members, community, and KIPP Team & Family across the country has been immensely helpful. Given that we know families will need support well after the flood waters subside, this fund will kick in when other support runs out for our families,” said Ali.

Many KIPP Houston schools are in communities that have been severely impacted by the storm and floods, so precaution is being taken to wait until the storm subsides to have an opportunity to assess the structural damage.

Within the last 24 hours, more than 100 donations have come in for the fund. In the meantime, KIPP Houston leaders are working to connect families with FEMA, Red Cross, and other organizations that can provide more comprehensive support to families including food and shelter. The Family Emergency Fund will be available for families to supplement additional needs. School Leaders across the 28 KIPP Houston schools have been in touch with students and families to assist in rescue and recovery efforts and are making a log of those families in severe need.

This is not the first natural disaster to affect the KIPP Houston region. In 2005, KIPP Houston opened its doors to hundreds of students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. This effort was launched in partnership with Teach For America and resulted in the successful launch of a new school: New Orleans West (NOW) College Prep.

“There is much work to be done in the coming days and weeks, but we are ready to support our students and families when they need us most. Our KIPP Houston community is resilient, and we come together to help each other,” said Ali.

About KIPP Houston

KIPP was founded in Houston in 1994 and has since grown to 209 public charter schools in 20 states and D.C. educating 88,000 children. Houston is KIPP’s largest region and educates 14,500 students in 28 schools and serves an additional 2,300 alumni in college and beyond. While only 10.6 percent of students from low-income communities in Houston graduate from college, 50 percent of KIPPsters, tracked from the 8th grade, graduate college. www.kipphouston.org

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