

# **The Midwest Schools Disaster Recovery Act**

## *Helping Flood-Affected Schools on the Road to Recovery*

The Midwest has been hard hit by record flooding in recent months. Flood damage to schools alone is expected to reach nearly \$100 million, and as a result some schools will not open in the fall. Those schools able to open their doors are desperately trying to get ready for the upcoming school year, but repairs and cleanup are ongoing. Moreover, many schools will see an influx of flood-displaced students, while others will face financial challenges due to the loss of students and a decline in property values. To address short- and long-term needs, immediate education disaster assistance for flood-impacted schools is necessary to ensure that students continue to receive a quality education in the aftermath of this disaster.

The Midwest Schools Disaster Recovery Act would:

### **Provide funds to restart school operations.**

- ❖ Authorizes funding for transportation assistance, to replace damaged textbooks and computers, rent temporary classroom sites, hire additional staff for counseling services, cleanup school buildings, and for other services and activities.

### **Support schools enrolling displaced students.**

- ❖ Authorizes funding for schools to accommodate increased student body population.

### **Prevent a decrease in numbers-based federal education funding.**

- ❖ Prohibits the loss of (displaced) students from counting against schools when federal funding is calculated for FY2009.

### **Gives flexibility to flood-impacted schools.**

- ❖ Waives the federal requirement that schools maintain their share of financial responsibility in providing education services.

### **Ensure needs of homeless students displaced by flooding are met.**

- ❖ Makes available Education for Homeless Youth program funds to flood-affected schools.