LOUISIANA OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Natural Disaster Exceptions

If you are a TOPS recipient affected by the winter storms of 2021, you are able to submit a request for exception due to Natural Disaster in order to maintain your TOPS eligibility. This exception applies if you are unable to enroll in school, to maintain continuous enrollment in school, or to earn the required annual hours due to the fact that you or your family live in a region of the state of Louisiana that is declared a natural disaster by the Governor of the state.

To apply for the Natural Disaster exception resulting from the winter storms of 2021, you will need to:

- Fill out the exception request form, check box 12 for natural disaster
- Include a written statement detailing the natural disaster's impact on you or your immediate family (mother, father, custodian, siblings and/or spouse and children), which prevented you from meeting the continuation requirements, including the length of the impact;
- Provide documentation corroborating your statement (examples: photographs of damage; insurance documents, FEMA documents, fire and/or police reports; statements from public officials; statements from family members or other persons with actual knowledge; receipts and invoices for work done and materials purchases; a copy of a lease and statement from lessor regarding the impact of the disaster; etc.).
- Email completed form and required supporting documentation to TOPS.exceptions@la.gov