

OCT 26 2007

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



Office of the Federal Coordinator  
for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

The Honorable Paul Pastorek  
Superintendent of Education  
State of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Dear Superintendent Pastorek:

It was good to see you last week. As always, I appreciated your candid feedback on the issues confronting the recovery and transformation of the New Orleans school system.

As you know, I am committed to ensuring that the Federal Government provides coordinated, effective, and appropriate support to you and the other local leaders that must drive the rebuilding effort. I strive constantly to improve the performance of all Federal efforts and to ensure that Federal dollars translate into tangible results.

As we discussed, I know that concerns persist regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public infrastructure funding. While this is a shared partnership between the Federal, State, and local governments, I, and my partners at FEMA, am committed to ensuring that the Federal Government meets its responsibilities in our ongoing effort to help drive various project worksheets to completion.

Toward that end, I ask you to please outline the five public assistance projects of highest priority to you. I will work closely with you, FEMA, and other relevant State or local agencies to seek resolution on these projects in an expeditious manner. Within thirty days of receiving your request, my goal is to identify the barriers that prevent reaching a decision and/or action on these projects. Please also identify the member of your staff that is the most appropriate contact on this going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation, and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of the students of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Powell".

Donald E. Powell  
Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding