

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)**  
**for the Hope Academy School Relocation Project,**  
**Harrison County, Mississippi**  
**FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in the funding of a relocation project for the Hope Academy School in Harrison County, Mississippi.

The former Hope Academy School, located at 9480 Pringle Avenue, D'Iberville, Mississippi, consisted of a main school building totaling approximately 4,915 square feet that included three (3) classrooms, a computer lab, offices, a library, auditorium, and a kitchen. The school provided education for approximately 119 students and faculty per year in kindergarten through 12th-grade. Hope Academy School was located within a Zone C, outside the 100-Year floodplain, at the time Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. For post-Katrina recovery purposes, FEMA developed advisory base flood elevations (ABFE) and determined the former Hope Academy School was located within the limit of the 1.5-foot wave zone and received 9 feet of water. The current DFIRM map for this location designates the former Hope Academy School site as within an AE-17 Zone, a location within the 100-year floodplain. Damages to the school meet FEMA's repair/replacement ratio for the demolition and replacement of the campus.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Hope Academy would relocate the campus to a site in Gulfport, Mississippi. The new campus location is a 15.9 acre tract of land within the Florence Gardens Subdivision in Gulfport, Mississippi. The proposed school will be outside the BFE and the 500-year floodplain, and will consist of a 13,350 SF facility that will house classroom, administration offices, a library, and a cafeteria. This facility will provide ADA compliant State required spaces for an educational building of this type.

The relocation of the school would establish a permanent educational facility to meet the needs for modern educational facilities that are designed to current educational facility standards and located outside the 500-year floodplain.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- Orange Grove Public Library  
12135 Old Hwy 49  
Gulfport, MS 39503
- Hope Academy  
14231 Seaway Road, Suite 7010  
Gulfport, MS 39503

The comment period will conclude 15 days after the initial notice publication date of **DAY, DATE**. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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