

# Classes resumed 19 days after storm; Gorenflo, Nichols to re-open in January

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Nineteen days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, students were back in class adjusting to the "new normal" and taking advantage of quality educational opportunities available through Biloxi Public Schools.

Of the 6,100 students enrolled before the storm, almost 3,200 were in their classrooms September 26 when schools reopened. Enrollment, currently at 4,500 students, is expected to increase as more families repair or rebuild their homes.

Several schools sustained significant or extensive roof damage. Two elementary schools in east Biloxi, Nichols and Gorenflo, received eight and six feet of water, respectively. When all is said and done, the cost of repairs and renovation is expected to approach \$23 million.

Students and staff from Nichols Elementary School are temporarily housed at the Jeff Davis Elementary School campus; students and staff from Gorenflo Elementary School are temporarily at the Beauvoir Elementary School campus. Renovations to Nichols and Gorenflo are scheduled to be completed before the Christmas holidays, and students and staff will return to their "new" schools a month later, in January, 2007.

The district's fiscal outlook warrants some concern since about 45 percent of the district's revenues come from local property taxes, and a number of those properties no longer exist. Coupled with the state legislature's failure to fully fund the Mississippi Adequate Education Program and reduced revenues associated with Impact Aid (federal dollars the school district receives from military schoolchildren), it will take some years to recoup the loss of millions of dollars projected to occur in the next three to four years.

A strategic planning initiative, launched in February, is expected to conclude in the next six to 12 months. Biloxi residents will then have a chance to review and comment on the district's new goals and objectives.

Although decreased student enrollment has resulted in the need for fewer teachers and support personnel for this school year, the district will continue to maintain a desirable pupil-teacher ratio. Biloxi Public Schools continues to offer the community it serves quality instructional opportunities and experiences.

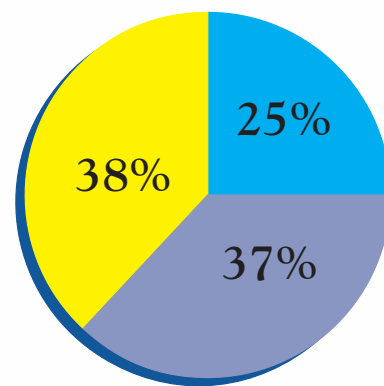
Finally, a word of thanks to the volunteers who have helped us in our recovery, to city officials who supported our effort to reopen the schools as soon as possible, and to school trustees and staff who offered their hearts and hands to help others in our community at a most difficult time. We are grateful.



Workers with Starks Contracting of Biloxi were busy making repairs at Nichols Elementary in anticipation of its January 2007 reopening.

## Budget

### Biloxi Public School District Revenues for 2006-2007



Total revenues of  
\$66.75 million

- Local - \$24.40 million
- State - \$25.36 million
- Federal - \$16.99 million

School Name	Address	Phone	Principal	Student Enrollment		
				Before Katrina Aug. 17, 2005	Sept. 26, 2005	Aug. 8, 2006
Beauvoir Elementary	2003 Lawrence Avenue	(228) 436-5131	Susan Brand	437	219	309
Gorenflo Elementary	771 Elder Street (temporary location: 2003 Lawrence Ave.)	(228) 436-5145	Tina Thompson	368	84	146
Jeff Davis Elementary	340 St. Mary Blvd.	(228) 436-5110	Bernell Kelly	532	185	354
Lopez Elementary	140 St. John Avenue	(228) 432-7783	Andrea Petro	316	119	174
Nichols Elementary	590 Division Street (temporary location: 340 St. Mary's Blvd.)	(228) 436-4648	Melissa Nance	327	69	150
North Bay Elementary	1825 Popp's Ferry Road	(228) 435-6166	Laurie Pitre	843	572	812
Popp's Ferry Elementary	364 Nelson Road	(228) 436-5135	Ricky Reed	631	329	463
Michel 7th Grade	1400 Father Ryan Avenue	(228) 435-4540	Carl Fantroy	488	266	352
Biloxi Junior High	1424 Father Ryan Avenue	(228) 435-1421	Murray Killebrew	982	535	773
Biloxi High School	1845 Richard Drive	(228) 435-6105	Pamela Manners	1,201	789	1,011
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>6,125</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>4,544</b>