

**TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA TO ALLOW A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN PRIVATE SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA**
Washington, D.C.

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

December 30, 2005

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on August 6, 1999, I find that the proposed text amendment to allow a temporary increase in private school enrollment to accommodate students displaced by Hurricane Katrina through July 1, 2006, would not adversely affect federal interests nor be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

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The District of Columbia Office of Zoning has referred to NCPC for comment a proposed text amendment to allow private schools in the District of Columbia to enroll students displaced by the affects of Hurricane Katrina. The amendment would limit the number of students who could be enrolled without counting towards enrollment caps imposed by the Board of Zoning Adjustment of ten percent of the maximum permitted or twenty students, whichever is less, would be allowed until July 1, 2006. The rule, already adopted on an emergency basis, took affect on September 15, 2005, and will expire 120 days thereafter, on January 13, 2006. The only difference between the proposed text amendment and the emergency rule is the addition of the July 1st expiration date. Although the emergency rule authorized the enrollment flexibility sought by the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, adoption of a rule that would continue in effect through the current academic year will avoid uncertainty with respect to enrollment compliance throughout the period. I find that the proposed text amendment would not adversely affect any federal interests, and the proposal is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, I endorse the District of Columbia Office of Planning's recommendation to approve the text amendment.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director