



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

# Welcome to the briefing: Flooding Threatens Public Schools Across the Country

*The webinar will begin shortly.*

For the full report, log on to [www.pewtrusts.org/flood-prepared-communities](http://www.pewtrusts.org/flood-prepared-communities)

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August 1, 2017

# Questions?

Please type your question in the text field at the bottom right of your screen.

If you do not see this field, click on the Q&A icon in the top right corner (blue when enabled).

Questions will be addressed at the end of the briefing.

# Today's presenters

**Laura Lightbody**

Project Director  
Flood-Prepared Communities



**Dr. Judsen Bruzgul**

Senior Manager  
ICF

**Jonathan E. Westcott**

Civil/Coastal Engineer  
FEMA Building Science Branch







**FLOOD**



**INFRASTRUCTURE**



**NATURE-BASED  
SOLUTIONS**



**DISASTER  
MITIGATION**

# The Problem

Flooding is the costliest, most common natural disaster in the U.S.

- Flooding cost Americans more than \$260 billion in damage since 1980.
- In 2016, the federal government declared 36 disasters involving floods or hurricanes.
- Four of those floods caused at least \$1 billion in damages each.



# Schools at Risk



Floods in West Virginia in June 2016 caused \$130 million in damage to regional schools including Herbert Hoover High School in Clendenin.



Joe Raedle/Getty Images

# Flooding Threatens Public Schools Across the Country

Infrastructure analysis evaluates county-level flood risk

# Methodology: Data

School locations, school characteristics & physical risk:

National Center for Education Statistics  
Elementary/  
Secondary  
Information System

Urban-centric Locale [Public School] 2013-14	All Students, All Grades (Excludes AE) [Public School] 2013-14
21-Suburb: Large	1,365
11-City: Large	103
11-City: Large	†
42-Rural: Distant	96
22-Suburb: Mid-size	169
21-Suburb: Large	2
21-Suburb: Large	59
13-City: Small	573
12-City: Mid-size	†
21-Suburb: Large	0

FEMA National  
Flood Hazard  
Layer



FEMA Disaster  
Declarations

FEMA Disaster Declarations As Of: 7/13/17

Disaster Number	IF Program Declared	IA Program Declared	PA Program Declared	Other Program Declared	State	Declaration Date	Disaster Type
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4323	No	No	Yes	Yes	ND	7/12/2017	DR F
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S
4322	No	No	Yes	Yes	NY	7/12/2017	DR S



# Methodology: Indicators

**Flood Zone Risk:** Potential for direct risk to the school

- *School's location in a 1% or 0.2% annual chance flood zone*

**ZIP Code Risk:** Potential for indirect risk to the school via the risk of the surrounding community

- *Percentage of the school's zip code located in the 0.2% annual chance flood zone*

**Disaster Count Risk:** Potential for direct or indirect risk based on frequency of historical flood-related disasters

- *Number of historical flood-related disaster declarations in the school's county*

# Methodology: Calculations

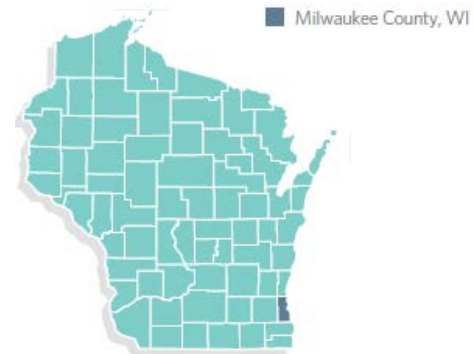
## Composite Flood Risk:

*Sum of flood zone, ZIP code, and disaster count risk scores*

**Scores are calculated at the county level:**  
individual school indicator scores are averaged across all schools in the county to create county-level indicator scores

# Nicolet High School, WI

- July 2010, 8 inches of rain resulted in \$14 million in damages
- \$1.2 million on upgrades to better manage stormwater runoff



# Eureka High School, MO

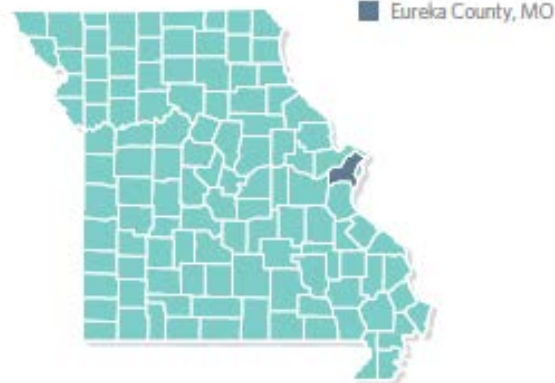


In December 2015, heavy rain flooded Eureka High School in Eureka, Missouri, causing millions of dollars in damage.

## Missouri High School Looks to Collaboration to Reduce Flood Risks

Officials consider pre-disaster measures to protect investments

- Dec. 2015, 3 days of heavy rainfall flooded 75% of school, costing \$2.5 million in damages
- School is collaborating with FEMA to increase resilience





# McDowell Elementary, KY



Flooding in 2013 caused \$60,000 in damage to McDowell Elementary School in McDowell, Kentucky.

## **Kentucky Elementary School Relocates to Break Cycle of Flooding, Rebuilding**

Preventive measures reduce its future exposure to flood risk

- 2013 floods resulted in \$60,000 of damages and initiated conversation on long-term outlook
- Due to a history of repeated flooding, officials have relocated and are consolidating school outside the floodplain



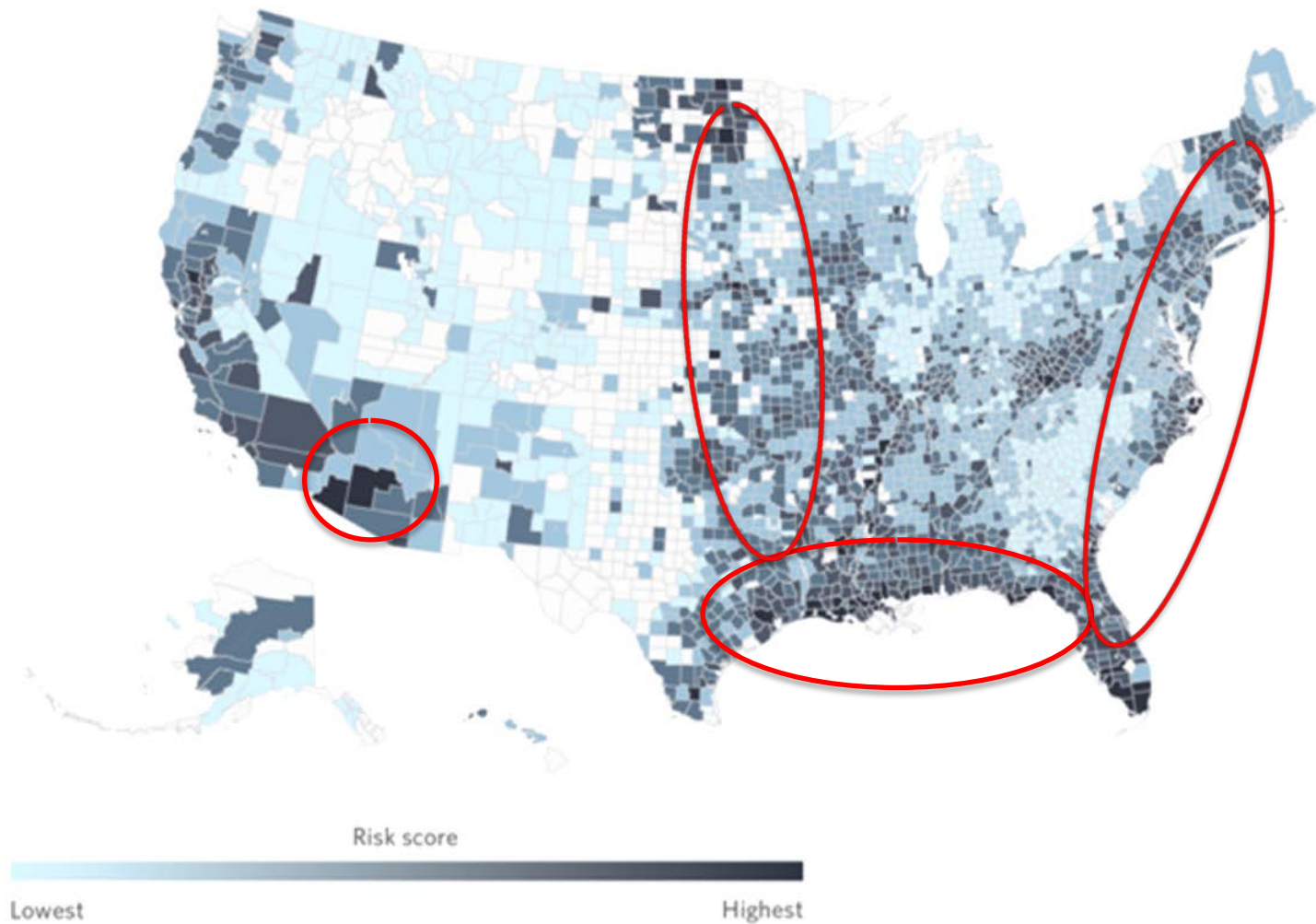
■ McDowell County, KY

# Key Findings



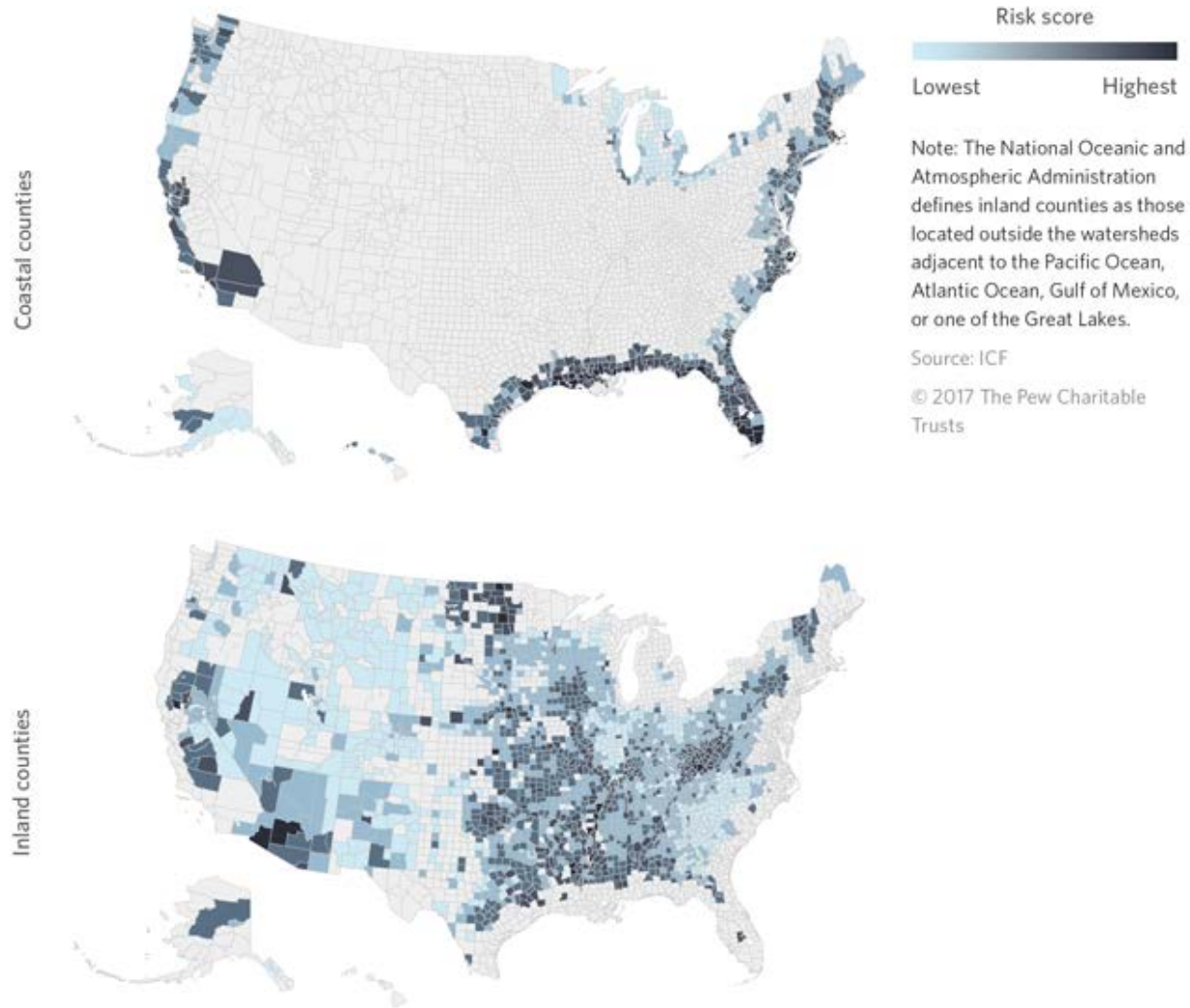
# School Flood Risk Is Distributed Widely Across the U.S.

Overall composite flood risk scores



# High Flood Risk Scores Are Not Limited to the Coasts

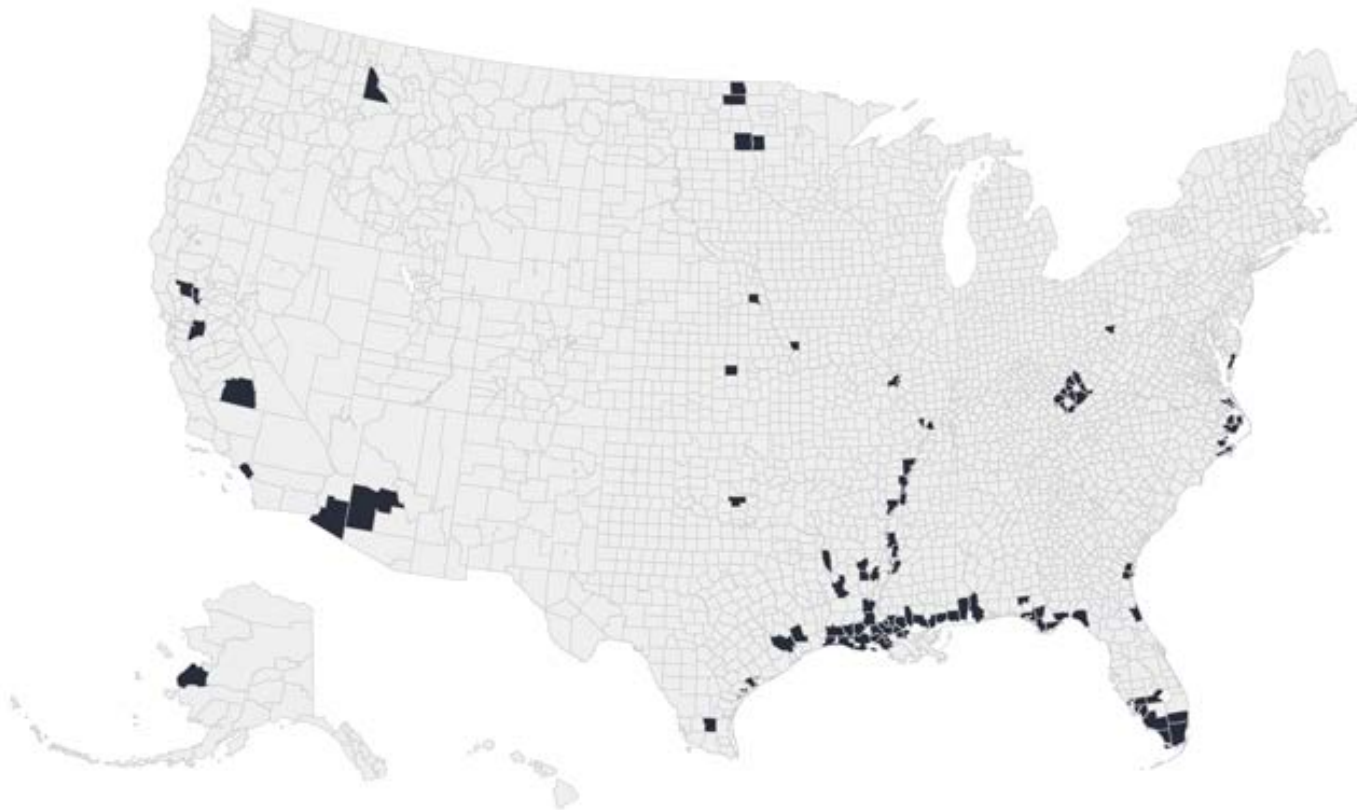
Composite flood risk scores for coastal and inland counties





## Counties With Highest Composite Scores Serve Nearly 4 Million Students

100 counties with highest composite flood risk scores

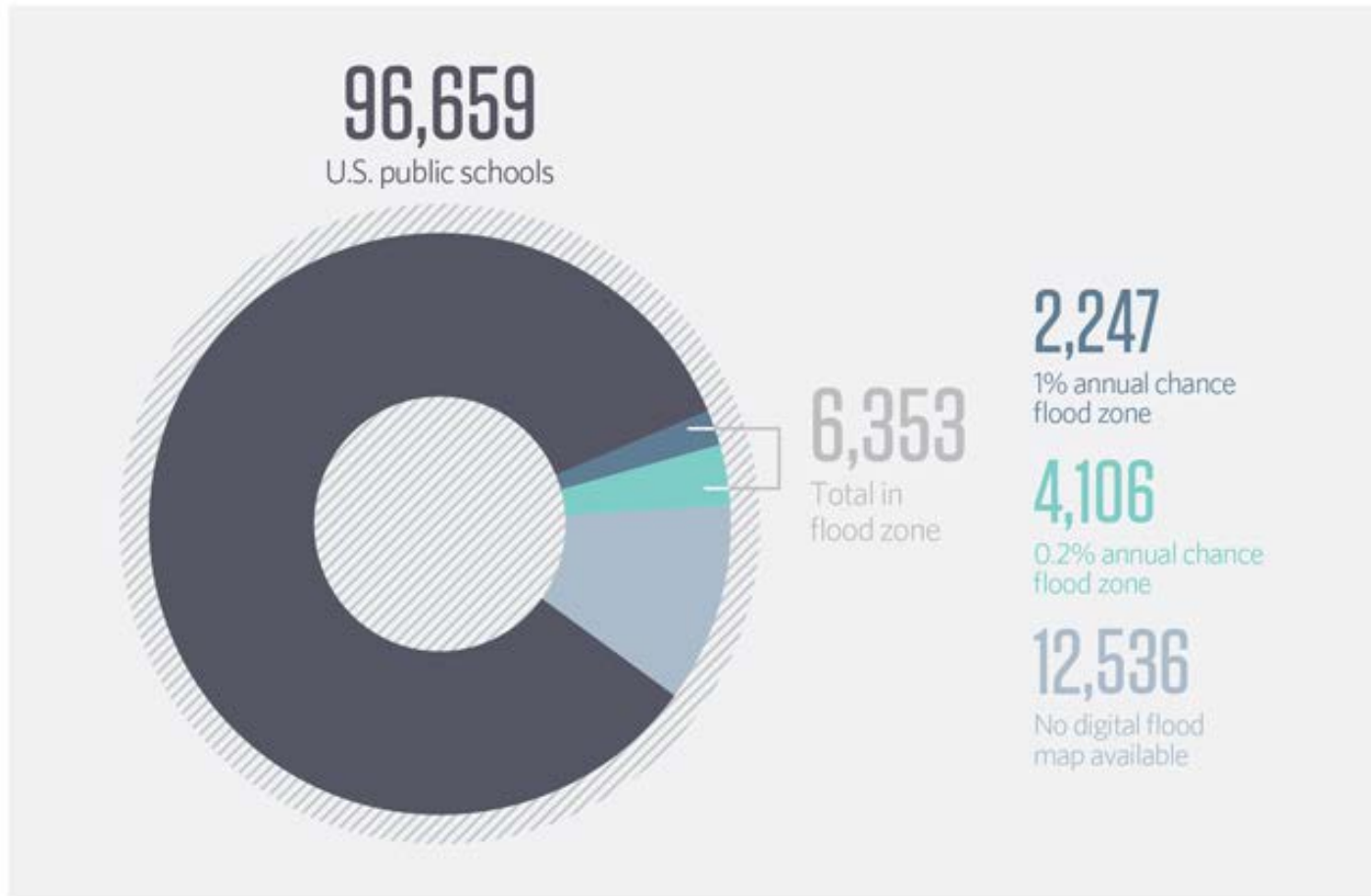


Source: ICF

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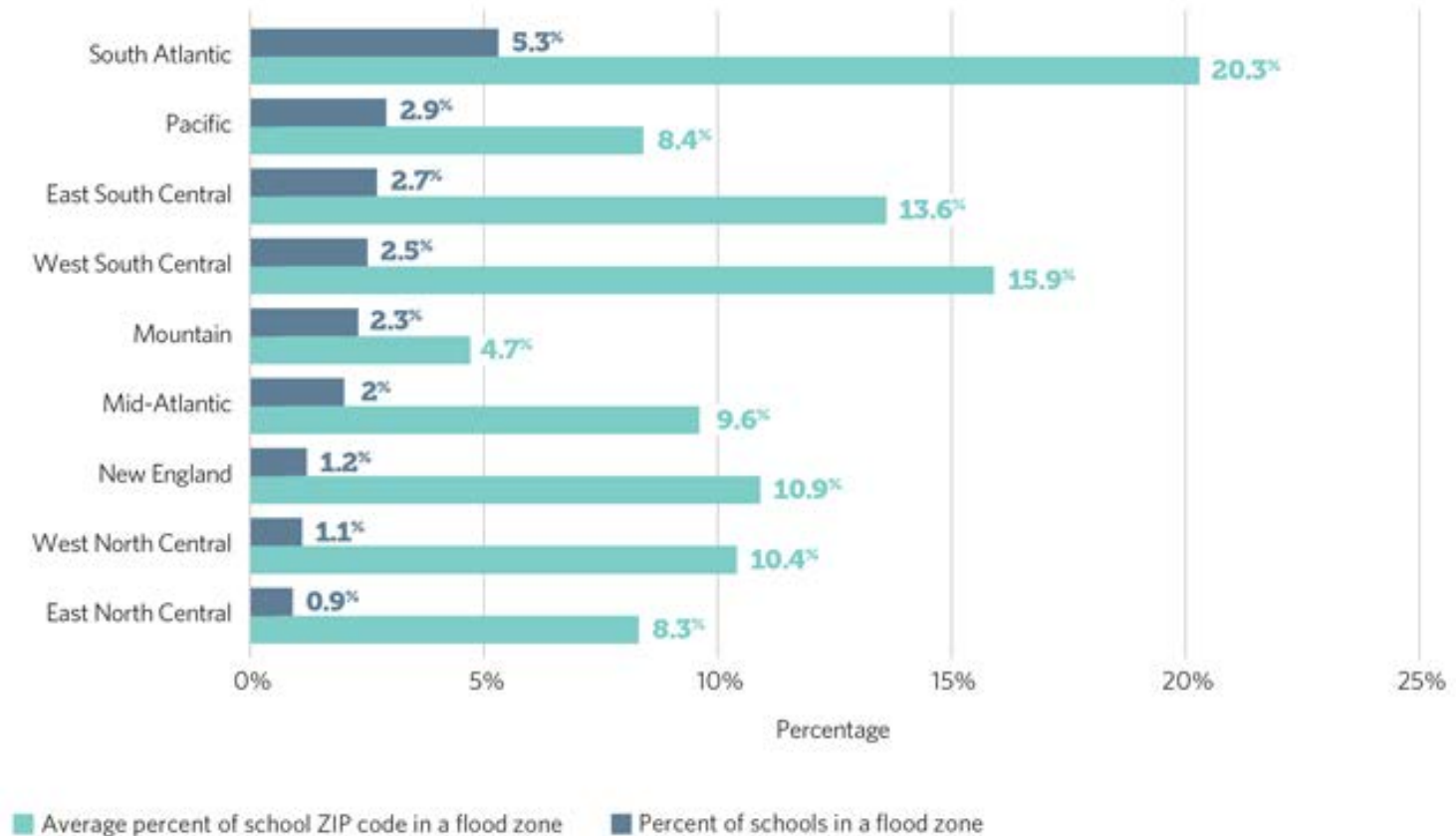
## 6,353 Schools Are Located in a Flood Zone

Number of schools in FEMA's mapped flood hazard areas



# Schools Outside Flood Zones Still Have Students Affected by Potential Floods

Percentage of schools and school ZIP codes in flood zone, by region



# Underinvesting in Mitigation and Infrastructure





# Recommendations

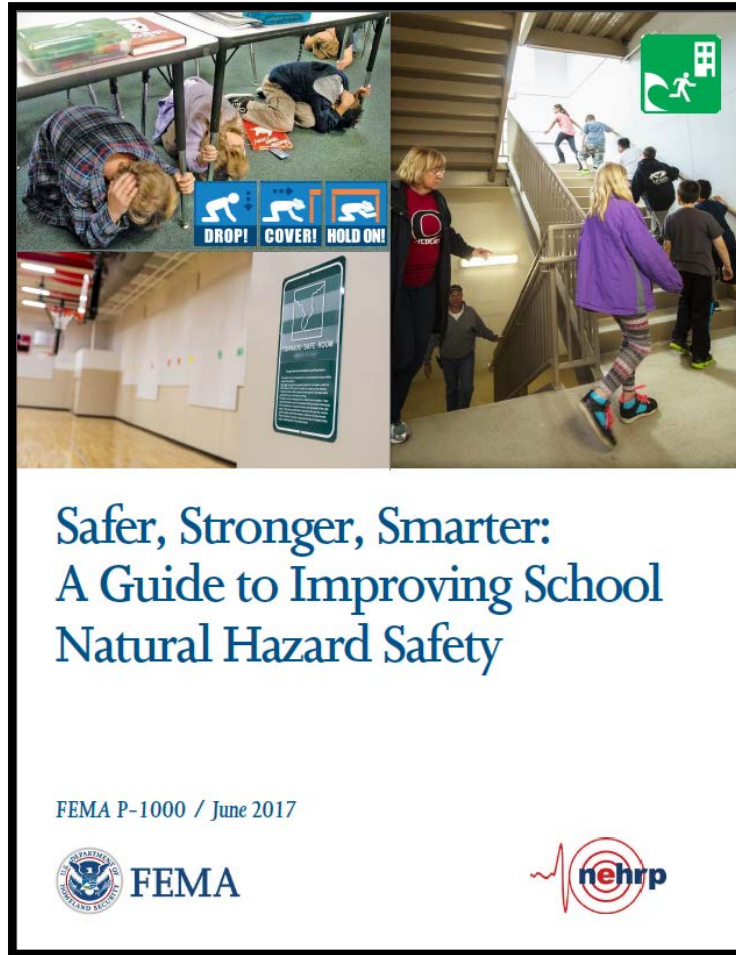
Modernize maps

Develop  
pre-disaster plans  
for schools

Leverage federal  
assistance

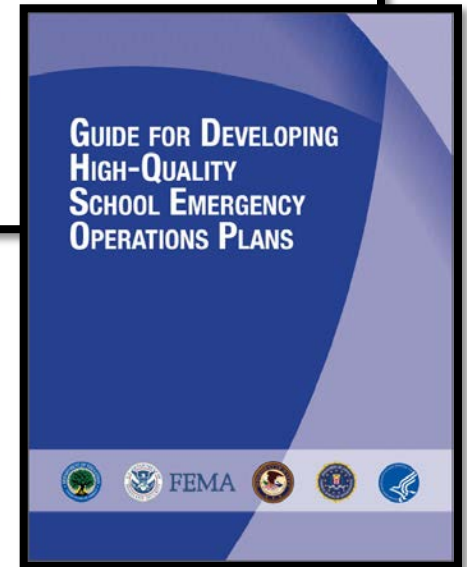
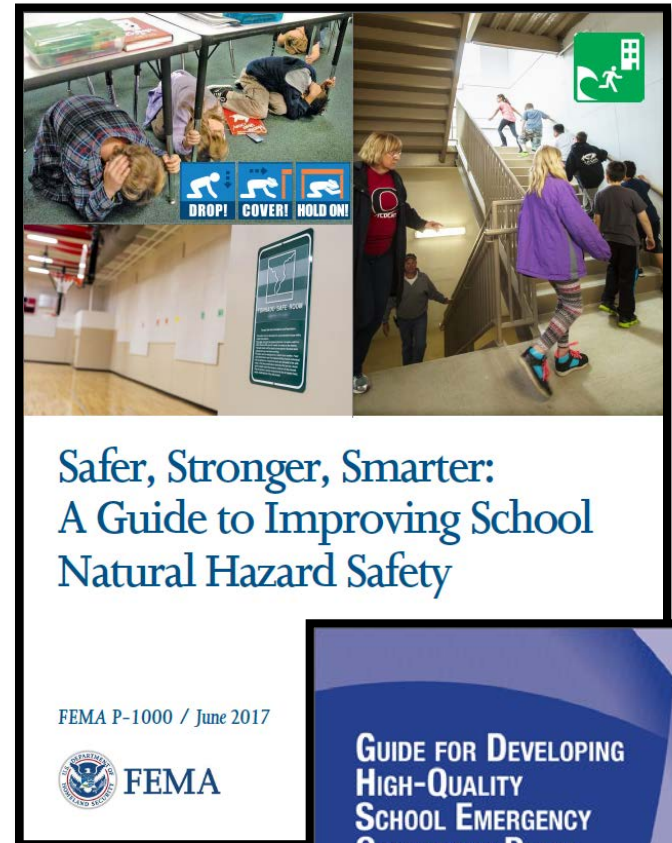
Rebuild smarter  
with federal dollars

# FEMA P-1000



# Where to start?

- *Guide on Developing High Quality School Emergency Operations Plans* (DoE, 2013)
- ***Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety*** (FEMA P-1000, 2017)



# **FEMA P-1000 – *Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety***

- Provides up-to-date, authoritative information and guidance that schools can use to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing natural hazards including actions to take before, during, and after a hazard event.
- Developed for administrators, facilities managers, emergency managers, emergency planning committees, and teachers and staff at K through 12 schools.
- Also valuable for state officials, district administrators, school boards, teacher union leaders, as well as parents, caregivers, and students.
- Includes real-world case studies and examples highlighting the importance and effectiveness of the guidance.



# FEMA P-1000 – *Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety*

- Comprehensive approach to school natural hazard safety.

## Key components:

- Identifying hazards
- Approaches for making school buildings safer
- Planning for hazard response
- Planning for hazard recovery
- Engaging the whole community

- Hazard supplements and Appendices:

- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Tsunamis
- High Winds
- Other Hazards: Snow storms, Volcanic Eruptions, and Wildfires



School buses in New Orleans, Louisiana were swamped by the floodwaters following Hurricane Katrina in September 2005 (Photo source: Liz Roll, FEMA).

# FEMA P-1000 – *Safer, Stronger, Smarter: A Guide to Improving School Natural Hazard Safety*

- Many of our Nation’s schools are at risk of flooding and other hazards.
- Planning and preparing is essential.
- Limited resources and competing priorities require smart investments.
- Improve safety, recover more quickly, and be better prepared for the future.
- <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/132592>

Danville Middle School: Flood Retrofit Features



Figure F-6 Wall repair and reconstruction to resist future flood damage. (Photo source: Reynolds Restoration Services, Inc.)



Figure F-7 Metal lockers were replaced with high density polyethylene (HDPE) lockers (Scranton Products, 2016).



Figure F-8 Flood vents were installed throughout most of the school. Allowing floodwater to enter prevents structural failure of walls if water is outside but not inside (Smart Vent, 2016).

# Schools in all 50 States Face Flood Challenges

Evaluation of community infrastructure risk potential

August 01, 2017 | Flood-Prepared Communities

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A data visualization from



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Overview



Composite Score



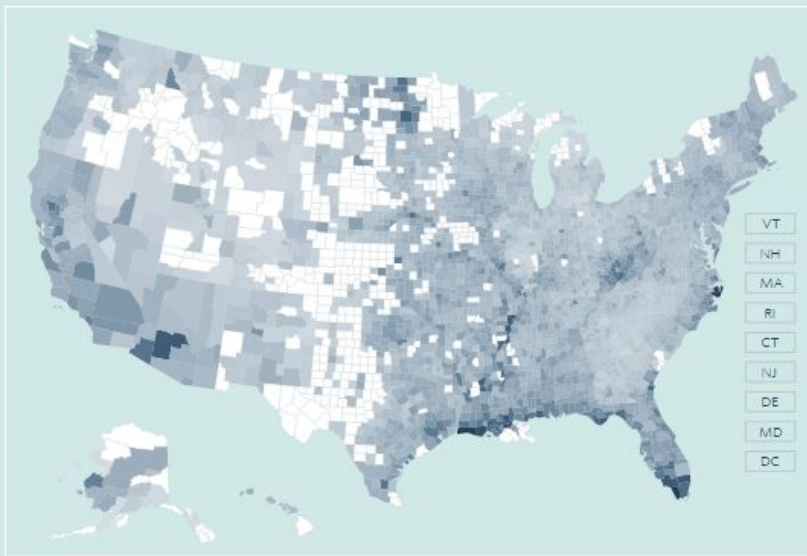
The score is made up of three major indicators

Municipality or County

GO

Composite Risk Score

Lowest:  Highest:  No data\*



Download Resources:

Chartbook

Case Studies: Wisconsin School | Kentucky School | Missouri School

# County-level view



Composite Score

The score is made up of three major indicators

Municipality or County

GO

Floyd County  
Kentucky

1.21

COMPOSITE  
RISK SCORE

Number of Schools 17

Schools Flood Zone 8

Percent of Schools in  
Flood Zone 47.1%

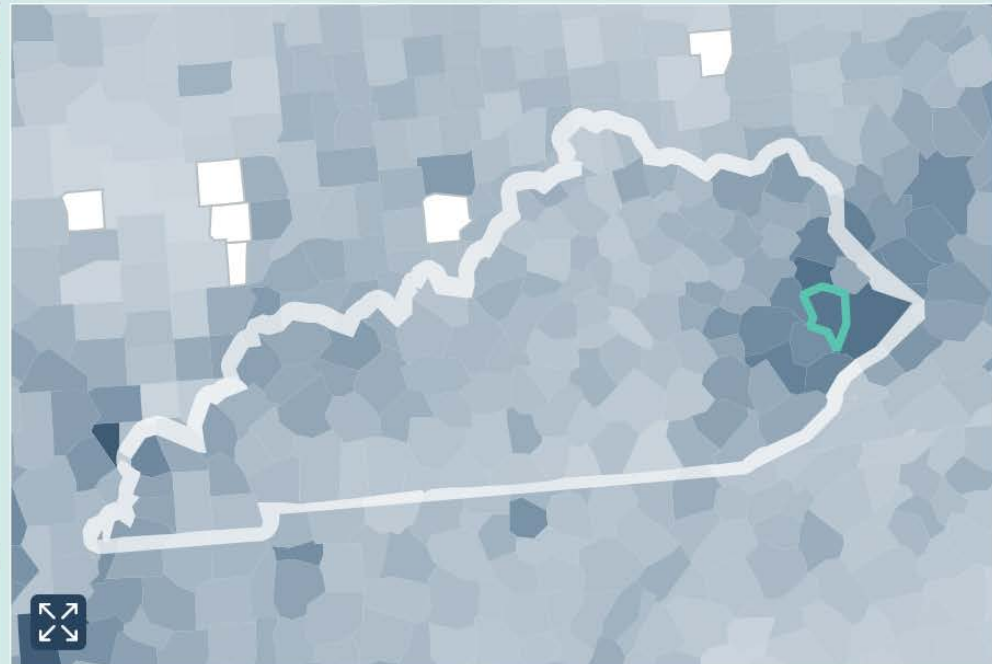
Number of Students 6,342

Composite Risk Score

Lowest

Highest

No Data





Composite Score

The score is made up of three major indicators

Municipality or County  GO

Monroe County  
Florida

2.34  
COMPOSITE  
RISK SCORE

Number of Schools 24

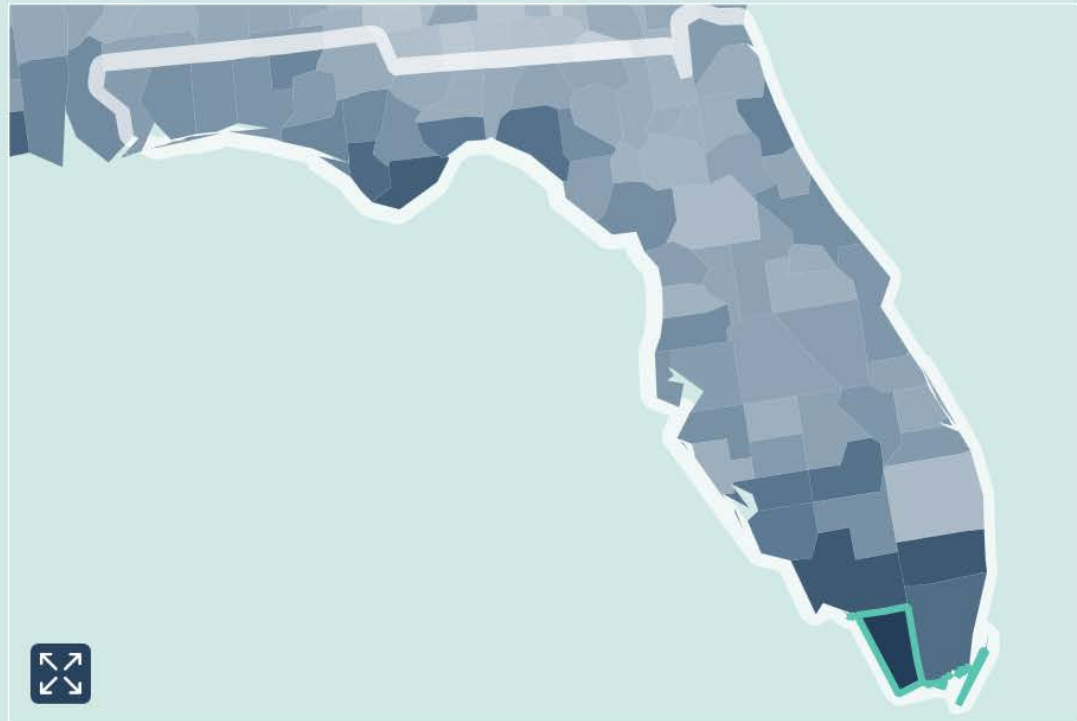
Schools Flood Zone 21

Percent of Schools in  
Flood Zone 87.5%

Number of Students 8,489

Composite Risk Score

Lowest Highest No Data



# Speakers

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# Thank you for joining us!

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For more information and to access the report, go to:

**<http://www.pewtrusts.org/schools-flood-risk>**