

## *Success Story:*

### **It Takes a Village: Hardin-Jefferson ISD recoups \$40M in FEMA assistance.**

Hardin-Jefferson ISD was significantly impacted by the two weeks of severe flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey, including two campuses and several ancillary buildings. The District's middle school and District-wide auditorium were immediately considered total losses, and all buildings associated with the District's stadium required extensive repairs. Schools are an integral part of the community and the District's recovery needed to be quick.

#### **See How We Can Help**

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With the District's middle school considered a total loss, HJISD needed a temporary campus as soon as possible. The District's Director of Operations, with the help of knowledgeable design professionals and contractors, was able to quickly bring a solution to the Superintendent and School Board in the form of a portable campus Henderson Village.

Henderson Village included classrooms, a cafeteria bathrooms, labs, administration rooms, storage, a library and more. The Village was designed, constructed, and opened for students and educators 12 weeks from the day Harvey struck. Equally as important, this \$3.9 million project was procured in a manner that was reimbursable by FEMA, leaving the District with no out-of-pocket costs for this portion of the project.

With students back on campus, the focus shifted to developing a long-term recovery plan for the middle school. FEMA's original



Henderson Village (right), a portable campus, allows education to continue seamlessly while a replacement campus is built to replace severely damaged Henderson Middle School (left).



estimates for recovery ranged from \$9 to \$17 million – far short of what the District would need to build a new middle school campus. The Disaster Recovery Services (DRS) team worked with the District to develop a strategy and gather support documents to build the District's case to FEMA that additional funding was necessary.

The disaster recovery team was able to prove to FEMA that all the affected buildings were substantially damaged and required full replacement. The plan was approved, and FEMA obligated \$40 million towards replacement of the buildings. With more than double the funding initially expected from

FEMA, the community, District staff, and architects were able to design a \$70 million state-of-the-art middle school campus that the community would only have to pay \$25 million for with the help of FEMA and other grants.

It truly does take a village! DRS in conjunction with District staff, contractors, architects and the Hardin-Jefferson community produced one of the most successful Harvey-related recovery projects in Texas.