

EMERGENCY ORDER REMOVING OBSTACLES FOR
SCHOOL DISTRICTS ENROLLING ADULT AND POSTSECONDARY
STUDENTS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE MARIA

As a result of the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria, many long-term evacuees to Florida have lost access to higher education in Puerto Rico and elsewhere and may wish to attend adult and career programs offered by public school districts. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 17-259, Section 4B, Section 252.46, and as directed by the State Coordinating Officer, I am authorizing school districts offering workforce education programs under s. 1004.02, Florida Statutes to waive existing statutory and rule requirements relating to student enrollment and placement, including, without limitation, residency and student record requirements, to the extent necessary to allow these students displaced by Hurricane Maria to enroll expeditiously. I am also authorizing school districts to waive the cap on fee waivers provided in section 1009.26(1), Florida Statutes.

Admissions decisions are still to be made by each institution on a case-by-case basis. I am directing that institutions utilizing these waivers provide information to the Florida Department of Education explaining which statutes and rules are waived and the students admitted.

It should also be noted that some of these long-term evacuees may qualify for the relief provided to homeless students under section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, and institutions are encouraged to avail themselves of these provisions as applicable.

This order shall expire upon the earliest of the expiration of Executive Order 17-259; or November 1, 2017, subject to 30-day extensions.

ORDERED in Tallahassee, Florida, this 10 day of October, 2017.



Pam Stewart
Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education