

EMERGENCY ORDER REMOVING OBSTACLES
FOR FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS
ENROLLING 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 Florida's state colleges. To enable these students to enroll, I am, therefore, authorizing state colleges 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 state colleges to waive the one percent cap on the ability of the state colleges to waive all fees provided in section 1009.25(2), 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; November 1, 2017, subject to 30 day extensions.

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



Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education