

EMERGENCY ORDER RELATING TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
DISPLACED BY HURRICANE MARIA

As a result of the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria, many people have evacuated from Puerto Rico and elsewhere to Florida including students and teachers and wish to attend and teach at public school while they are temporarily residing in Florida. Many evacuees lack the required records to enroll or teach in Florida public schools either because such records were left behind in haste or destroyed. Therefore, in accordance Executive Order 17-259, Section 4B., section 252.46, Florida Statutes, and as directed by the State Coordinating Officer, I order the following statutes and rules waived to allow school districts to enroll students and employ teachers displaced by Hurricane Maria without the necessary and customary documentation:

- Rules 6A-1.0985 and 6A-1.09941, Florida Administrative Code, to the extent necessary to allow Florida public school districts to admit such students where such records are unavailable to the parent or guardian of the student.
- Section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, to the extent it requires proof of age for attendance eligibility where such records are unavailable to the parent or guardian of the student.
- Section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, requiring presentation of a certification of a school-entry health examination where such records are unavailable to the parent or guardian of the student. Such statute shall be waived for initial enrollment of students.
- Upon receiving a request from a school superintendent or his or her authorized designee or from a Florida nonpublic school with a state-approved professional education competence program, the Department of Education will:
 - o Waive the application fee(s) for an initial educator certificate pursuant to Section 1012.56(1), Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-4.0012(1)(a), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), with requests not to exceed three (3) subject area coverages or endorsements, and
 - o Waive the requirement to provide official transcript(s) documenting receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution, pursuant to Section 1012.56(2)(c), Florida Statutes and Rule 6A-4.0012(3), F.A.C., if the educator provides unofficial transcript(s) and, if applicable, copies of valid teaching certificate(s) issued by another state or U.S. territory.

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 6 day of October, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Stewart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education