

Under Emergency Order 24-01, the State of Florida has announced that it will expedite the transfer process for admitting Jewish students seeking to attend in-state colleges due to increasing anti-Semitism on numerous campuses nationwide. In response Polk State College will waive transfer requirements for Jewish students, this includes credit hour requirements, application deadlines, and out of state fees. Any student seeking to transfer under the above circumstances should contact the Office of Admission and Registration, or the Office of Institutional Compliance and Engagement (see below).

Admission and Registrar's Office

Phone: 863.298.6878

Email: registrar@polk.edu.

Institutional Compliance & Engagement

Phone: 863.298.6842

Email: oice@polk.edu

**State of Florida
Department of Education**

In Re: Waiving Strict Adherence to
Certain Statutes, Department Rules,
and Institution Specific Requirements,
Pursuant to Executive Orders
23-208 and 23-242, Made Necessary by
the Impacts of War in Israel

DOE ORDER NO. 2024-E0-01

DEPT OF EDUCATION
TALLAHASSEE FLA

2024 JAN -9 PM 1:48

FILED AGENCY CLERK

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order No. 23-208, ratified and reaffirmed by Executive Order No. 23-242, declaring a state of emergency in response to the war in Israel; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists from Gaza and the surrounding region infiltrated Israel's borders and began indiscriminately murdering, kidnapping, and raping innocent men, women, and children, while Hamas simultaneously bombarded innocent Israeli communities with thousands of rockets; and

WHEREAS, antisemitic incidents in the United States have increased by 388% in the aftermath of the attack on Israel. *See Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Before S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 118th Cong. (2023) (testimony of FBI Director Christopher Wray), available at <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/committee-activity/hearings/12/05/2023/oversight-of-the-federal-bureau-of-investigation>, at 1:13:30; and*

WHEREAS, "73% of Jewish college students surveyed have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year alone." *Campus Antisemitism: A Study of Campus Climate Before and After the Hamas Terrorist Attacks, available at <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/campus-antisemitism-study-campus-climate-and-after-hamas-terrorist-attacks>; and*

WHEREAS, in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Israel, hundreds of Americans have boarded rescue flights to evacuate from Israel to Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Florida College System recognizes the state of emergency created by the war in Israel, and the resulting danger to students who are seeking to transfer to a Florida College System institution ("college" or "institution") to escape a reasonable fear of

antisemitic or other religious discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or violence at their current institutions; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 23-208, as ratified and reaffirmed by Executive Order No. 23-242, grants each state agency the authority to suspend the provision of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Manny Diaz, Jr., Commissioner of Education, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 23-208, as ratified and reaffirmed by Executive Order No. 23-242, issue this emergency order to remove barriers for undergraduate students who are seeking to transfer to a Florida college because of a well-founded fear of antisemitic or other religious discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or violence at an out-of-state, degree-granting, accredited institution within the United States.

The temporary and limited nature of the waivers and directives contained herein are necessary to respond to and mitigate the impact of the emergency and promote the health, safety, and welfare of students who intend to undertake academic studies at an institution within the Florida College System.

1. Determination of Well-Founded Fear

- a. Each college must determine whether a prospective student has demonstrated a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of religion. This fear can be established by an applicant who can demonstrate that he or she has suffered, is currently suffering, or credibly fears suffering future discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or violence, either at their current institution or with a substantial nexus to their current institution, on the basis of religion.
- b. Colleges may require any of the following from a prospective student to establish that the student has a well-founded fear of persecution as described in section 1.a.:
 - i. a statement from the prospective student;
 - ii. statements from witnesses;
 - iii. recordings or photographs;
 - iv. official records of complaints filed with law enforcement or the student's current college or university; and
 - v. any other relevant information or material germane to an applicant's claim.

2. Waivers and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees

- a. Pursuant to sections 1009.25 and 1009.26, Florida Statutes, each college board of trustees must adopt or apply policies to waive out-of-state fees, where applicable due to a financial hardship, for students who seek to transfer and can demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution as described in section 1.a.
- b. I hereby waive the limitations for exemptions and waivers established in section 1009.25(2) and 1009.26(1), Florida Statutes. Any fee exemptions granted pursuant to section 1009.25 or this emergency order do not count toward the 54 or 1% of the institution's total full-time enrollment limit established in section 1009.25(2). The total value of out-of-state fees waived under section 1009.26 or this emergency order do not count toward the amount annually established by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act as referenced in section 1009.26(1).

3. Deadlines for Applications and Expedited Review

- a. For students seeking to transfer on the basis provided in section 1.a.:
 - i. Each college board of trustees must waive application date deadlines. Application deadlines are set to determine the last date a student can apply for admission to an institution.
 - ii. Each college board of trustees must implement an expedited review and determination of applications to provide an expedited path for admission, subject to space and capacity limitations.
 - iii. Each college board of trustees must maintain existing enrollment deadlines and other applicable enrollment policies. Enrollment deadlines are set to determine the last date an admitted student must enroll in a course(s).

4. Waiver of Readiness Assessments for Certain Transfer Students

- a. Any student who has been admitted to and is currently attending a college or university in another state and is seeking to transfer to a Florida College System institution for the reasons stated in 1.a. above is exempt from the requirements of Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-10.0315.

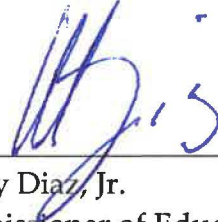
5. Institution Specific Policies or Rules

- a. To the extent that any institution has a policy, rule, or regulation that conflicts or is inconsistent with the provisions contained herein, those

provisions must be deemed suspended for the duration and purpose of this emergency order.

This emergency order will take effect immediately upon execution and will remain in effect until the expiration of Executive Order No. 23-208, and any extensions thereto.

DONE AND ORDERED this 9th day of January 2024, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner of Education
Florida Department of Education

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above EMERGENCY ORDER has been filed with the Agency Clerk of the Department of Education, on this 9th day of January, 2024.



Agency Clerk