



## Grandparent Waiver Implementation & Guidance Document for State University System Institutions

*Updated: September 2023*

### Background

In 2021, the Florida Legislature amended Section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, to create the Grandparent Waiver. Beginning with out-of-state undergraduate students admitted for the 2022-23 academic year, eligible students with grandparents residing in Florida may be eligible for an out-of-state fee waiver. The remainder of this document outlines the student eligibility requirements and provides guidance for the State University System institutions in implementing this new waiver program.

### Student Eligibility

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the grandparent waiver. Students are only eligible to receive this waiver starting in their first year of enrollment.

1. Have a grandparent who is a legal resident as defined in s. 1009.21(1), F.S.
  - a. The term "grandparent" means a person who has a legal relationship to a student's parent as the natural or adopted parent or legal guardian of the student's parent.
  - b. The following documents will be considered acceptable for determining grandparent's residency and relationship to student.
    - i. A standardized SUS form that a parent or grandparent has signed regarding the familial relationship.
    - ii. The same residency documentation that students provide to demonstrate Florida residency for the grandparent.
2. Earn a high school diploma comparable to a Florida standard high school diploma, or its equivalent, or complete a home education program.
3. Achieve one of the following.
  - a. An SAT combined score no lower than the 89th national percentile on the SAT. Though the term "national" appears in the statute, the intended percentile corresponds to the "SAT User" percentile [published by the College Board](#). The score also coincides with the threshold required for each high school graduating class to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars Bright Futures award. For reference, the Florida Department of

Education Office of Student Financial Assistance publishes the threshold annually in the [Bright Futures Student Handbook](#). The current minimum combined score for a 2023-24 high school graduate is 1340. The required score for a 2024-25 graduate is 1340.

- b. An ACT score concordant to the required SAT score above, using the latest published national concordance table developed jointly by the College Board and ACT, Inc. A concordant ACT score of 29 may also be used to qualify for both graduating classes listed above.
  - c. A Classic Learning Test (CLT) score concordant to the required SAT score specified above, using the latest published scoring comparison developed by Classic Learning Initiatives. A concordant score of 96 may also be used to qualify for both graduating classes listed above.
4. Enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the summer or fall term immediately following high school graduation and continuously enroll full-time every fall and spring term until the requirements for the bachelor's degree have been completed.
- a. The student must be enrolled full-time as of the census date in each term to maintain eligibility.
  - b. Summer enrollment is not required.
  - c. If a student enrolls part-time, waiver eligibility will be lost, and that slot may be used for another student going forward.
  - d. Beginning with students who initially enroll for the 2022-2023 academic year or thereafter, a state university shall, within the nonresident student enrollment system-wide, prioritize the enrollment of a student who is granted a fee waiver under this subsection over an out-of-state student who is not eligible for an out-of-state fee waiver if the students have substantially similar academic and other credentials used in determining admission to the state university.
5. It is the student's responsibility to apply for this waiver and submit all necessary documentation in accordance with university deadlines.
- a. A system-wide application form may be developed and used for this purpose.
  - b. Students should be enrolled continuously based on the continuous enrollment policy for the institution to maintain eligibility for the waiver. Otherwise, a student must reapply upon returning to the institution.
6. If a student transfers to another institution, they must apply for the waiver at the new institution for consideration.

## Implementation

Institutions shall award the grandparent waiver according to the following guidance.

- 1. Waivers will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis up to the maximum allocation of students for each institution as established by the Chancellor.
- 2. The waiver is applicable for up to 110 percent of the number of required credit hours of the degree program for which the student is enrolled. The 110 percent will be

calculated in the same way as other existing waivers, that is, 110% of total degree hours.

3. The waiver may not be applied retroactively.
4. Students will be treated as residents and should only be charged fees charged to resident students.
5. A maximum of 350 new students system-wide may be granted a grandparent waiver each academic year. For instance, in the 2023-24 fiscal year there may be up to 700 students with waivers system wide, assuming the 350 students awarded in the 2022-23 academic year re-enroll.
  - a. Per the Board of Governors waiver regulation, the Chancellor or designee will make the final determination regarding the institutional allocations of the waiver.
  - b. Once a waiver has been granted, it will stay with that institution until the recipient graduates, leaves the institution, or otherwise becomes ineligible.
  - c. Each institution will be allocated an initial number of waivers at the start of each award cycle.
  - d. Unused slots may be reallocated between institutions if needed to maximize use of the waiver.
  - e. Board staff shall develop a process for monitoring and redistributing waivers to ensure the maximum number of waivers are awarded each academic year. Since the Grandparent Waiver is state-mandated, it does not count towards any discretionary waiver caps or limits. See further details in the Monitoring and Redistribution Process section below.
  - f. The initial allocation for the 2024-25 academic year is as follows.

**Table 1: Initial Grandparent Waiver Allocation for the 2024-25 Academic Year**

Institution	Allocation
<b>FAMU</b>	5
<b>FAU</b>	9
<b>FGCU</b>	14
<b>FIU</b>	6
<b>POLY</b>	5
<b>FSU</b>	72
<b>NCF</b>	5
<b>UCF</b>	51
<b>UF</b>	150
<b>UNF</b>	7
<b>USF</b>	22
<b>UWF</b>	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

**Table 2: Final Grandparent Waiver Allocation for the 2023-24 Academic Year**

On 9/14/2023, waivers were reallocated by the Board office to maximize use of the waiver.

Institution	Allocation
<b>FAMU</b>	3
<b>FAU</b>	6
<b>FGCU</b>	8
<b>FIU</b>	3
<b>POLY</b>	1
<b>FSU</b>	90
<b>NCF</b>	0
<b>UCF</b>	51
<b>UF</b>	169
<b>UNF</b>	2
<b>USF</b>	17
<b>UWF</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

**Table 3: Final Grandparent Waiver Allocation for the 2022-23 Academic Year**

On 9/16/2022, waivers were reallocated by the Board office to maximize use of the waiver.

Institution	Updated Allocation
<b>FAMU</b>	4
<b>FAU</b>	12
<b>FGCU</b>	15
<b>FIU</b>	6
<b>POLY</b>	3
<b>FSU</b>	67
<b>NCF</b>	4
<b>UCF</b>	51
<b>UF</b>	145
<b>UNF</b>	6
<b>USF</b>	34
<b>UWF</b>	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

## Monitoring and Redistribution Process

Board staff shall develop a process for monitoring and redistributing waivers to ensure the maximum number of waivers are awarded each academic year. The process is as follows:

1. March 2024 – Board staff will send out Information Request #1 to each university to collect the following data:
  - a. Number of grandparent waivers awarded to prospective students (prospective students are considered students who have been accepted but not necessarily committed)
  - b. Number of pending applicants for the grandparent waiver
  - c. Number of students on the waitlist for the grandparent waiver

This information request will be due on March 30, 2024.

By April 15, 2024, Board staff may redistribute waivers based on the information provided in Information Request #1.

2. June 2024 – Board staff will send out Information Request #2 to each university to collect the following data:
  - a. Number of waivers awarded to committed students (committed students are considered students who have deposited for the upcoming summer or fall semester)
  - b. Number of waivers awarded to prospective students who have NOT committed/deposited for the upcoming summer or fall semester.
  - c. Number of pending applicants for the waiver (students who have been accepted but waiver application is still pending)
  - d. Number of committed students on the waitlist for the waiver
  - e. Number of students on the waitlist for the waiver who have NOT committed/deposited

This information request will be due on June 15, 2024.

By June 30, 2024, Board staff will redistribute waivers that have not been awarded to committed students. Those unused waivers will go to universities holding waitlists of committed students.

**It is the responsibility of the university to communicate to each student that if they have not committed/deposited by June 15<sup>th</sup> (or an earlier date set by the university), their grandparent waiver will be redistributed to a university holding waitlists of students who have committed/deposited.**

3. September 2024 – Board staff will send out Information Request #3 to each university to collect the following data:
  - a. Number of waivers awarded to current first-year students
  - b. Number of current first-year students on the waitlist for the grandparent waiver

This information request will be due after each university has closed its add/drop window. Board staff will redistribute any waivers that have not been awarded to current first-year students.

**Universities are encouraged to share all the above information and dates with students seeking a grandparent waiver.**