



Fact Sheet: Committing to a Strong Campus Climate

October 2024

At SUNY, student safety on our campuses is paramount and we will do everything we can to ensure that our campuses are both safe and inclusive. Our commitments:

- 1) We will not tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination and harassment.
- 2) We will build and embrace more tools to advance productive campus conversations.
- 3) We will help students from all backgrounds feel respected and seen.

Our proactive approach to delivering on these commitments includes:

Standing Up For Our Students

- SUNY has issued – and will continue to communicate – **clear, morally unambiguous statements** condemning Hamas’s horrific terrorist attack on October 7th; vowing to protect student safety; rejecting antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry and hatred; standing with Governor Hochul in rejecting BDS; and reiterating the importance of free expression alongside the responsibility of all students, faculty, and staff to engage one another with respect even when they disagree. Chancellor King also emphasized in a public letter that: “**antisemitism is antisemitism whatever ‘code words’ are used**, including if ‘Zionist’ is intended to mean the same thing as ‘Jewish.’”
- In preparation for the one-year commemoration of October 7th, SUNY issued guidance to campuses emphasizing strategies to **ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff; maintain enforcement of our content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions; and consistently give voice to SUNY’s values** in our internal and external communications. The guidance directs campuses to provide **enhanced public safety presence** during this period, specifically including for Jewish students attending High Holy Day services, and to monitor social media as appropriate to ensure awareness.

Ensuring Campuses Are Prepared

- In advance of the fall 2024 semester, SUNY provided all campuses with **model policies** for **content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions** on protests; **prohibitions on encampments**; rules for placards and **postings**; and requirements for carrying **identification** on campus. SUNY has adopted these policies for System Administration.
- Every campus was expected to incorporate information on **content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions and tools for civil discourse into fall orientations and back-to-campus content** at the beginning of the fall 2024 semester for new students, returning students, students in leadership positions, and student employees in areas like residence life.

- Campuses submitted **fall 2024 campus preparedness protocols** that included (1) a description of how the campus will communicate to faculty, staff, and students that the campus rejects antisemitism and Islamophobia, rejects discrimination or marginalization of any group of students in clubs and other organizations, and is **committed to an inclusive and welcoming environment** for all groups of students; and (2) how the campus is **preparing for protests and other events**. Campus presidents committed to undertaking a **review of campus safety protocols** with the University Police Department or campus security lead, emergency management lead, and other law enforcement partners.
- To assist campus leadership teams, SUNY is providing **job aids and checklists for individuals with key preparation and response responsibilities**, and continuing to conduct **tabletop exercises** to ensure campuses are prepared.

Providing Robust Title VI Protections

- All campus presidents, campus counsels, chief diversity officers, affirmative action officers, chief student affairs officers, and chief academic officers have received **training in Title VI protections against discrimination and harassment** and will continue to receive annual specialized training. SUNY's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will also hold a full-day professional development session for all Chief Diversity Officers in January 2025 in partnership with Brandeis University's Presidential Initiative to Counter Antisemitism in Higher Education.
- **Every SUNY faculty and staff member is required to complete Title VI training** in fall 2024. SUNY also created an online **Title VI training for students**, including examples of antisemitism, and distributed it to all SUNY campuses.
- SUNY requires all campuses to **complete a Title VI checklist in advance of known campus events**, including protests and the 10/7 anniversary, to ensure students receive mental health services and other needed supports, even if speech is protected under the First Amendment. SUNY has consistently communicated to faculty, staff, and students that First Amendment rights and Title VI protections must both be followed.
- In advance of the fall 2024 semester, SUNY provided **guidance with expectations for how students can submit and campuses will receive Title VI complaints**, demonstrate that complaints are taken seriously and investigated fully, and provide appropriate information to complainants and other interested stakeholders. Campuses were expected to describe how to report incidents of discrimination and harassment during fall orientation and to submit a fall 2024 campus preparedness protocol explaining their strategy for **clear communication of the bias incident reporting system to students, faculty, and staff and their commitment to prompt and thorough investigation**.

Building Community

- All of this work builds on the ongoing efforts of SUNY's **Civic Education & Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows**, our commitment to incorporate **civil discourse** into the SUNY General Education Framework, and grants for campuses to **create or expand interfaith prayer, meditation, and reflection spaces**. In addition, SUNY System and a cohort of SUNY campuses will join **Hillel International's Campus Climate Initiative**. Click [here](#) more information on SUNY's **comprehensive civics and service agenda**.