

## Columbia University Settles with Trump Administration Over Antisemitism Allegations

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Columbia University has reached a \$220 million settlement with the Trump administration, ending a months-long standoff over federal research funding that had been suspended amid allegations of antisemitic harassment on campus. The agreement paves the way for the restoration of billions in government grants, while also mandating

institutional reforms and financial penalties aimed at ensuring future compliance with civil rights standards.

Under the terms of the settlement, Columbia will pay \$200 million in fines over a three-year period and an additional \$21 million to resolve a parallel investigation by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The university has also agreed to implement new policies, including enhanced oversight of academic departments, strengthened disciplinary procedures, and increased campus security. A federally appointed monitor will conduct biannual reviews to ensure that Columbia meets all conditions of the agreement.

The Trump administration had frozen approximately \$400 million in federal funding to Columbia earlier this year, citing the university's failure to adequately address antisemitic incidents and protect Jewish students. Compliance with federal directives, such as banning face coverings during protests and restructuring administrative oversight, was made a prerequisite for restoring those funds.

Columbia University's Acting President Claire Shipman acknowledged the settlement as a critical turning point. She described it as a way to resolve federal concerns while preserving the institution's academic autonomy. At the same time, over 70 students were either suspended or expelled for their roles in a controversial pro-Palestinian protest and sit-in at Hamilton Hall. While Columbia cited violations of university policy, protest leaders claimed the disciplinary actions were politically motivated.

The agreement also subjects certain academic departments, specifically those related to Middle Eastern and South Asian studies, to tighter

scrutiny. These steps are part of a broader institutional review intended to prevent the recurrence of hostile campus environments.

From a center-right perspective, the settlement represents a clear example of using federal leverage to restore accountability and safety within higher education. Advocates argue that universities must take stronger responsibility for upholding the civil rights of all students, including Jewish Americans, especially when funded by taxpayers. Critics warn, however, that the deal may embolden future government interference in university affairs and potentially hinder free speech on campus.

Columbia's decision to settle, rather than contest the administration's action in court, is likely to influence similar negotiations underway with other Ivy League institutions. As the debate over campus governance and federal authority continues, this settlement marks a significant precedent in balancing institutional independence with civil accountability.