**Instructions, Contacts and Sample Letters**

to submit comments on NYSED’s proposed regulations of nonpublic schools before September 2, 2019

Instructions

It is important that everyone connected with the independent school world communicate on the proposed regulations with both the Board of Regents as well as the formal NYSED regulatory comment process before September 2, 2019. Following are instructions, contacts and sample letters to facilitate submitting comments and to ensure all comments are delivered to the correct addresses.

* **ALL letters must be submitted before September 2, 2019**
* If you choose to use one of the four sample letters provided below,please make it your own.

Personalized letters have more impact than form letters.

* **Send your letter (email) to** **all of the following**:

seregcomments@nysed.gov Christina Coughlin, NYSED

regulations@nysais.org NYSAIS will keep a record of all comments

Regent.Mead@nysed.gov Regent for the county where our school is

Regent.Cottrell@nysed.gov Regent at Large who will vote on the regulations

Regent.Norwood@nysed.gov Regent at Large who will vote on the regulations

Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov Regent at Large who will vote on the regulations

Regent.Young@nysed.gov Regent at Large who will vote on the regulations

* If you live in a different county than our school, also copy the Regent for that county
* Feel free to also copy any other Regent you wish
* Email addresses for Regents are provided below
* Addresses to mail letters via USPS are provided at the end of this document
* The more letters of support the Regents receive, the more likely the regulations will be amended to accept NYSAIS accreditation for substantial equivalency and remove the local public school district from the direct oversight of your independent school.

**Sample Letter 1 – Accreditation Is Important**

**The more letters of support the Regents receive before September 2, 2019, the more likely the regulations will be amended to accept nysais accreditation for substantial equivalency and to remove the local public school district from the direct oversight of the independent school.**

To: seregcomments@nysed.gov, Regent.Mead@nysed.gov, regulations@nysais.org

Cc: Regent.Cottrell@nysed.gov, Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov, Regent.Norwood@nysed.gov, Regent.Young@nysed.gov; amiller@parksideschool.org; lthorne@parksideschool.org

Dear Ms Coughlin and the Honorable Regent Mead,

I am submitting this during the public comment period regarding NYSED’s proposed regulations. I am not in favor of the regulations as proposed.

My child(ren) attend The Parkside School, an independent school that is a member of NYSAIS. Our school regularly undergoes a thorough review by NYSAIS, which includes an evaluation of the curricula to establish students are receiving instruction that meets the state’s requirements for substantial equivalency. Our school not only meets those standards, it exceeds those margins.

It is unnecessary to spend the significant amount of time and money required to properly assess a school that already undergoes a proven review process every few years. NYSED and local public school officials should direct their funds, time and energy to strengthening local public schools, not waste resources on duplicate reviews.

I propose NYSAIS schools be considered already substantially equivalent, joining other accredited schools already excepted from the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your school(s)

Your town

**Sample Letter 2 - Cost concern**

**The more letters of support the Regents receive before September 2, 2019, the more likely the regulations will be amended to accept nysais accreditation for substantial equivalency and to remove the local public school district from the direct oversight of the independent school.**

To: seregcomments@nysed.gov, Regent.Mead@nysed.gov, regulations@nysais.org

Cc: Regent.Cottrell@nysed.gov, Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov, Regent.Norwood@nysed.gov, Regent.Young@nysed.gov; amiller@parksideschool.org; lthorne@parksideschool.org.

Dear Ms Coughlin and the Honorable Regent Mead,

I support improving education at all schools, I support reviews of unaccredited schools, but I do not support reviews of accredited schools. The school my children attend/I teach at/I work for/I attended, The Parkside School, already undergoes thorough reviews on a regular basis. Every few years, as part of its NYSAIS accreditation, a substantial equivalency evaluation to compare Parkside to local public schools is completed. Each accreditation consistently shows Parkside delivers substantially superior educational opportunities for all its students.

Those accreditations are costly, so I find it hard to believe the proposed regulations, which are unfunded, claim to not impose additional costs. With some 2,000 nonpublic schools across the state, the cost to implement this program must be substantial.

If the regulations were to except NYSAIS accredited schools, and any other schools accredited by a recognized agency, which performs a substantial equivalency evaluation, the time and cost to review unaccredited schools would have to be substantially less than reviewing thousands of schools.

Another way to contain costs would be to extend the substantially equivalent status earned by Regents registered high schools to the entire school. Our school and many other nonpublic schools teach grades K-12. There is no reason why lower grades would not be substantially equivalent if upper grades are equivalent.

I pay state and local taxes. I also pay my children’s tuitions. If the regulations are not amended as advised, I am concerned both my taxes and tuitions will rise unnecessarily to implement the regulations. Excusing already accredited schools from unnecessary reviews seems a reasonable way to cut down on the governmental waste that duplicate reviews would amass.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your school(s)

Your town

**Sample Letter 3 - Concern regarding competition from public schools**

**The more letters of support the Regents receive before September 2, 2019, the more likely the regulations will be amended to accept nysais accreditation for substantial equivalency and to remove the local public school district from the direct oversight of the independent school.**

To: seregcomments@nysed.gov, Regent.Mead@nysed.gov, regulations@nysais.org

Cc: Regent.Cottrell@nysed.gov, Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov, Regent.Norwood@nysed.gov, Regent.Young@nysed.gov

Dear Ms Coughlin and the Honorable Regent Mead,

I am submitting this during the public comment period regarding NYSED’s proposed regulations. I am opposed to the new regulations.

We chose to send our child(ren) to The Parkside School for many reasons, not the least of which is that we believe the school’s mission and policies meet our family’s needs better than our local public schools. To allow administrators of our school district, who are in charge of the schools we chose not to attend, to oversee Parkside is unacceptable. Our school district essentially competes with Parkside for the same students, and we would prefer to avoid conflicts between our school and the district. Fair and impartial reviews, such as the NYSAIS accreditation our school undergoes every few years, are vastly superior to what locally elected officials or their designees could hope to accomplish.

The Parkside School not only meets the standards for substantial equivalence, it far exceeds those margins. There is no need for our school to be re-reviewed. I propose schools accredited by NYSAIS be excused from the review process and the local public school district administration and board of education not have direct oversight of our school.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your school(s)

Your town

**Personalized letters are more impactful than form letters**

**Sample Letter 4 – Concern about privacy**

**The more letters of support the Regents receive before September 2, 2019, the more likely the regulations will be amended to accept nysais accreditation for substantial equivalency and to remove the local public school district from the direct oversight of the independent school.**

To: seregcomments@nysed.gov, Regent.Mead@nysed.gov

Cc: regulations@nysais.org, Regent.Cottrell@nysed.gov, Regent.Norwood@nysed.gov, Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov, Regent.Young@nysed.gov; amiller@parksideschool.org; lthorne@parksideschool.org

Dear Ms Coughlin and the Honorable Regent Mead,

Our family elects to send our child(ren) to The Parkside School because we believe it better meets the needs of our child(ren) and family than our public school option. Our child(ren) have thrived at Parkside and have been able to take courses unavailable at our local public school.

Aware that Parkside recently underwent NYSAIS’ lengthy, rigorous accreditation process by NYSAIS, which is chartered by the Board of Regents, we know that Parkside is already fully accredited. Parkside does not require another accreditation by the local school board. To do so would be a wasteful duplication of time and money, taking time and resources away from educating my child and his/her schoolmates, as well as from the public school students deprived from resources redirected to pay for the reviews scheme.

Given that information provided during the review would be discoverable through Freedom of Information Law requests, we are alarmed that the regulations will expose our children’s private information and threaten our privacy. We do not want our child(ren)’s test scores, report cards, and other sensitive and proprietary information to be in public domain.

In addition to the significant taxes we pay, we spend precious funds to send our child/ren to The Parkside School. Even so, tuition does not cover the full cost of attendance. If Parkside is forced to absorb the costs of an unnecessary review, we are concerned that could lead to fewer programs and/or higher tuition. It could even make the school financially unsustainable, damaging both the school and the community. In the event of a school closing, if all of the Parkside students had to attend the local public school, our child(ren), the public schools and the community would have fewer funds to spend on those students currently attending our local public school district.

Please do right by us and amend the regulations to consider NYSAIS accreditation as fulfilling substantial equivalency requirements and removing the local public school district from direct oversight of our independent school.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your school(s)

Your town

**Regents Email Addresses**

Schools and/or residents location Regent

New York (Manhattan) Regent.Mead@nysed.gov

Bronx Regent.Rosa@nysed.gov

Kings (Brooklyn) Regent.Cashin@nysed.gov

Queens Regent.Chin@nysed.gov

Richmond (Staten Island) Regent.Cea@nysed.gov

Nassau & Suffolk Regent.Tilles@nysed.gov

Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess, Regent.Johnson@nysed.gov

Orange, Putnam

Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Regent.Finn@nysed.gov

Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Regent.Collins@nysed.gov

Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Regent.Brown@nysed.gov

Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Regent.Ouderkirk@nysed.gov

Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga,

Schenectady, Warren, Washington

Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Regent.Hakanson@nysed.gov

Onondaga, Oswego

Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Regent.Mittler@nysed.gov

Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler,

Tioga, Tompkins

Regents at Large Regent.Cottrell@nysed.gov

Regent.Norwood@nysed.gov

Regent.Reyes@nysed.gov

Regent.Young@nysed.gov

**Regents Mailing Addresses**

Address letters to: Christina Coughlin

NY Education Department

SORIS

89 Washington Avenue,

Room 1075 EBA

Albany, NY 12234

cc: Regulations at NYSAIS

\*\*\* Regent for your county, see list below

**It is imperative both NYSAIS and a Regent are sent copies of every letter.**

Regulations at NYSAIS

NYSAIS

17 Elk Street, 1st Floor

Albany, NY 12207

Regents indicated by \* are located at:

Regents Office

State Education Building

89 Washington Avenue

Albany, N.Y. 12234

Schools and/or residents location Regent

New York Nan Eileen Mead

116 West 32nd St., 6th Floor

New York, NY 10001

Bronx \* Betty A. Rosa, Chancellor

Kings (Brooklyn) \* Kathleen M. Cashin

Queens \* Judith Chin

Richmond (Staten Island) \* Christine D. Cea

Nassau & Suffolk Roger Tilles

Lorber Hall, Room 211

Long Island University Post,

720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville, NY 11548

Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess, \* Judith Johnson

Orange, Putnam

Schools and/or residents location Regent

Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, \* Josephine Victoria Finn

Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Catherine Collins

Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming 508 Main Street

Buffalo, NY, 14202

Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, T. Andrew Brown,

Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Vice Chancellor

925 Crossroads Building

Two State Street

Rochester, NY 14614

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Beverly L. Ouderkirk

Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, 303 Main Street

Schenectady, Warren, Washington Morristown, NY 13664

Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, \* Elizabeth S. Hakanson

Onondaga, Oswego

Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, \* Susan W. Mittler

Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler,

Tioga, Tompkins

Regents at Large \* Luis O. Reyes

James E. Cottrell

SUNY Downstate Medical Ctr.

450 Clarkson Avenue - Box 6, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203-2098

Wade S. Norwood

74 Appleton Street

Rochester, NY 14611

Lester W. Young, Jr

55 Hanson Place, Suite 400

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

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