



Major Points Regarding Proposed NYSED's Regulations

- The proposed regulations threaten the independence of all NYS AIS schools and fundamentally alters the relationship between the independent schools Boards of Trustees and Heads of School and their public school counterparts.
- The proposed regulations subordinate the curricular and staffing authority of the independent and religious school's Board of Trustees to the local, public school board of education.
- Using a political, local school board, which has no direct authority over non-public schools, to make the final determination about the non-public schools compliance with substantial equivalence undermines the independence and authority of the independent school's board of trustees.
- By subordinating the curricular decisions of the non-public school educational leader to the public school educational leader, the respectful, collegial professional relationship that has been established over the past several decades between the independent school educational leaders and the public school educational leaders is fundamentally altered and damaged.
- A public prolonged curricular disagreement between an independent school and a local, public school superintendent or board could dramatically, and permanently, damage the enrollment at an independent school resulting in the loss of operating revenue which could jeopardize the financial sustainability of the school causing significant financial harm to the independent school.
- As all NYS AIS members schools undergo a regular, rigorous and thorough accreditation that includes reviewing compliance with Education Law 3204, the proposed, mandatory, five-year parallel accreditation process is a wasteful duplication of professional time and money creating a significant, time-consuming and unnecessary unfunded mandate.
- Commissioner Elia and the State Office of Religious and Independent Schools (SORIS) has the authority under existing Education Law, and well-established past practice, to investigate any non-public school in which a credible complaint has been lodged with either the Commissioner or NYSED. NYS AIS has never disagreed with this existing practice and supports NYSED exercising this authority whenever it has a credible complaint against a non-public school.