

TIMELINE OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY REGULATION

Nov 20, 2018: NY State Education Department (State Ed.) releases harsh Substantial Equivalency Guidelines. Private schools must, depending on grade, provide 7+ hours of secular studies per day in about a dozen topics, or students risk being criminally truant.

Nov 27, 2018: Yeshiva community requests formal clarification of Guidelines. State Ed. does not respond.

Dec 11, 2018: All 500+ NY Catholic schools publicly boycott the Guidelines.

Dec 12, 2018: The Jewish Press publishes Regent scores demonstrating that NY yeshivos outperform public schools.

Dec 20, 2018: In a letter to Commissioner Elia, the majority of the NYC City Council state that "State Ed. is forcing its way deep into private school practices with unprecedented incursion.."

Dec 21, 2018: State Ed. clarifies, but still requires over 4 hours in 7-12th grades, and retains control of curriculum.

Jan 16, 2018: YAFFED loses lawsuit trying to enforce harsher state control of yeshivos.

Jan - Feb, 2019: State Ed. forgoes opportunities to engage with yeshiva leaders.

Mar 6-19, 2019: Agudah, PEARLS, TU, independent schools, and Catholic schools sue State Ed. over illegal Guidelines.

Mar - Apr, 2019: Rabbanim, Agudah leaders, and professors submit affidavits supporting yeshivos in lawsuit. YAFFED files affidavit opposing yeshivos.

Apr 17, 2019: NY Supreme Court sides with yeshivos, declaring the Guidelines "null and void" due to illegal implementation.

Jul 3, 2019: State Ed. publishes new proposed Regulations. They are nearly identical to the Guidelines, but require a public comment period, per the court ruling.

Jul 3 - Sep 3, 2019: State Ed. is overwhelmed by comments and letters opposing the new regulations.

Sep 3, 2019: Comment period closes.

Nov 2020 - Present: Yeshiva Principals and community leaders continue to meet with State Ed. and the Board of Regents to attempt to ameliorate the Regulations.

March 30 2022: State Ed. Releases new, problematic Regulations.

May 31, 2022: Last day to comment on the Regulations.

Sept 12, 2022: Board of Regents to vote on the new Regulations.

Sept 2022: If approved, Regulations effective for the 2022-23 school year.

Dec 1, 2023: Schools must demonstrate compliance or be evaluated by the local public school district.



**Agudath Israel
of America**
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