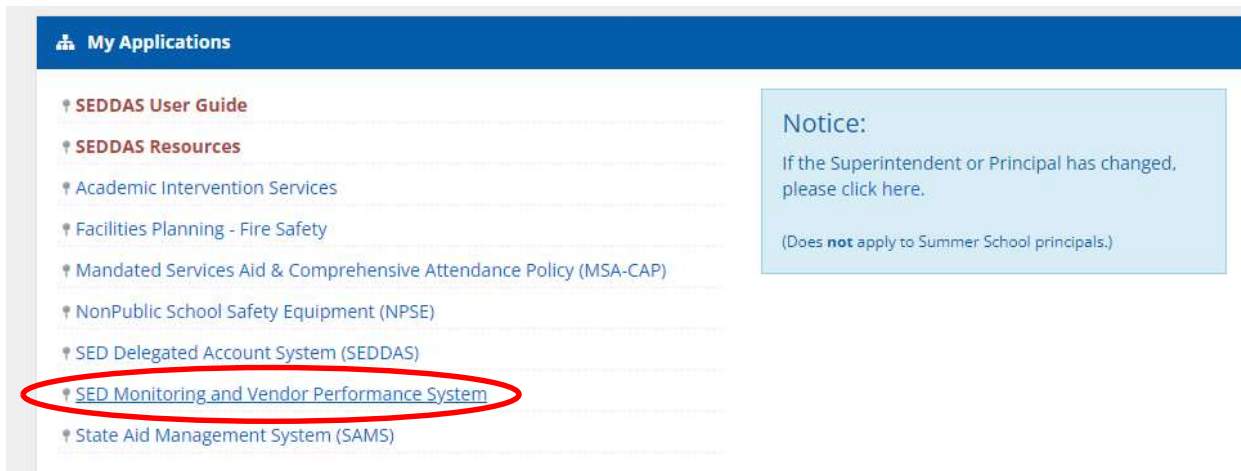


# **Local School Authority (LSA) Substantial Equivalency (SE) 2025-2026 Reporting Survey Instructions**

**Survey Due Date: February 1, 2026**

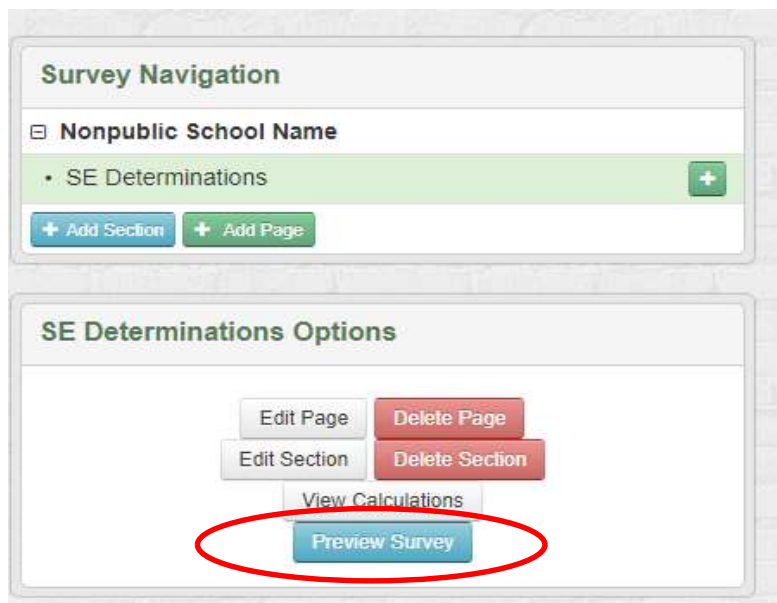
New York State Education Department (NYSED)  
Office of Religious and Independent School Support (ORISS)

# Accessing the SE Survey via the NYSED Business Portal



Log in<sup>1</sup> to the SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System through the [NYSED Business Portal](#). Once logged in, select “ORISS.” This will display a list of available surveys. Select “Substantial Equivalence Local School Authorities List.”

Click on “Preview Survey” to access the survey.



<sup>1</sup> For assistance with locating your User ID or password, see Appendix I on page 16.

# 2025-26 SE Survey Instructions

The September 1, 2025 annual report will not be required separately this year. Instead, it is being consolidated into the December 1, 2025 survey. LSAs must report on all religious and independent schools (R/Is) located within their geographic boundaries. For each R/I, LSAs must also identify the applicable pathway used to demonstrate that the school provides instruction that is substantially equivalent to public schools, as required under Part 130 of the Commissioner's Regulations. The deadline of which has now been extended to **February 1, 2026**.

The December 2025 survey is separated into five sections:

- **Section 1** – Religious and Independent Schools (R/Is) with BEDS codes
- **Section 2** – R/Is Not Listed in Section 1
- **Section 3** - No R/I within the LSA Geographic Boundaries
- **Section 4** - Pathway 7 Attestation
- **Section 5** - Attestations for all LSAs

Please ensure that all sections have been reviewed and completed as appropriate, and that all required information has been reported.

When completing the survey, you may need to move within tables to view or enter information. For the best experience, use the arrow keys on your keyboard to scroll up and down or left and right inside the table. This will help you navigate more smoothly without losing your place.

Resources related to Substantial Equivalency can be found on NYSED ORISS's [Substantial Equivalency](#) webpage. There you will find links to the Substantial Equivalency Implementation Guidance Department-issued statements, approved accreditor and assessment lists, and other related information.

Please read the instructions that accompany each section and column heading to better understand the information requested. If you have any questions that

are not answered by visiting the resources on the Substantial Equivalency webpage or these instructions, please do not hesitate to reach out to ORISS by email at [SESupport@nysed.gov](mailto:SESupport@nysed.gov) or by phone at 518-473-8202.

## Section **1** – Religious and Independent Schools (R/Is) with BEDS Codes

*R/Is with an assigned BEDS code are listed in this section. The LSA is expected to verify information for schools within its boundaries. If an R/I is listed in Section 1 of the survey, but is no longer within the LSA's boundaries, indicate as such by checking the appropriate selections. If there is an R/I within its boundaries that is not listed in Section 1, it should be manually entered into Section 2.*

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 1: Religious & Independent School Institution Name (R/I)	✓		
Column 2: Physical street address of R/I (not mailing address)	✓		
Column 3: City/Town of R/I	✓		
Column 4: Zip Code of R/I	✓		
Column 5: Does the address listed in SEDREF match the current physical address of the R/I? If not, complete Columns 6, 7, & 8.			✓
Column 6: Updated Physical Street Address of R/I (not mailing address)  <i>This column will be completed if the address in SEDREF does not match the R/Is current physical address.</i>		✓	
Column 7: Updated City/Town of R/I  <i>This column will be completed if the address in SEDREF does not match the R/Is current physical address.</i>		✓	
Column 8: Updated Zip Code of R/I  <i>This column will be completed if the address in SEDREF does not match the R/Is current physical address.</i>		✓	
Column 9: R/I Corporate Name	✓		
Column 10: R/I BEDS Number	✓		

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 11: R/I Institution ID	✓		
Column 12: ORISS Institution ID	✓		
<p>Column 13: Grade Levels R/I Currently has Enrollment for in 2025-2026 (check all that apply)</p> <p><i>Select the grade levels the school currently has enrollment in. If the school is closed or not in the district, select the “NA” option.</i></p>			✓
<p>Column 14: SE Pathway Select the pathway chosen by the R/I.</p> <p><i>Note that Pathways 1, 2, 3, 6a, &amp; 7a require additional columns to be completed or reviewed</i></p>			✓
<p>Column 15: SE Status Select the status of the R/I’s pathway.</p> <p><i>Indicate the status of where the LSA is at in evaluating the R/I’s pathway selection. Please note some selections require additional columns to be completed or an email to be submitted to <a href="mailto:SESsupport@nysed.gov">SESsupport@nysed.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:Commissioner@nysed.gov">Commissioner@nysed.gov</a>.</i></p>			✓
<p>Column 16: Date of SE Verification (Pathways 1-6); or Date/Anticipated Date of Recommendation/Determination (Pathway 7)</p> <p><b>**Note:</b> Pathways 1 through 6 must be verified each year. Pathway 7 final positive determination is valid for seven years.</p> <p>Please select the appropriate month, day, and year.</p> <p><i>Enter the date the LSA made the decision or anticipates making its decision on the pathway status selected in Column 15.</i></p>		✓	
Column 17: If the R/I’s Pathway 7 review has not yet been completed, as		✓	

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
<p>indicated in your Column 15 selection, briefly explain.</p> <p><i>If the pathways status selected in Column 15 was "Pathway 7 review to be completed," it requires an explanation as to why the review has not been concluded.</i></p>			
<p>Column 18: No Response from R/I school</p> <p>Please indicate how you have attempted to obtain the SE pathway selection from the R/I.</p> <p>Select all that apply.</p> <p><i>If the R/I has not been responsive to the LSA in selecting a pathway, answer this question. Districts should make every effort to contact the R/I using multiple methods of communication.</i></p>			✓

## **COLUMNS 19a-23 ARE PATHWAY SPECIFIC AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR ONLY R/Is THAT SELECTED PATHWAYS 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 6a, & 7a.**

### **PATHWAY 1a & 1b – Registration**

Registration is not obtaining a Regent’s charter, a Commissioner’s consent, or a BEDS code. High School Registration is a process that eligible high schools complete with ORISS to allow them the privilege to issue valid New York State diplomas and administer Regents examinations. Their affiliated/related middle & elementary schools may also select Pathway 1. The definition for affiliated/related can be found on page 8 of the [SE Guidance](#).

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
<p>Column 19a: Pathway 1a</p> <p>For R/Is that are registered, this is the Registration Status (found in SEDREF).</p> <p><i>This field should say "Registered."</i></p>	✓		

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 19b: Pathway 1a  For R/Is that are registered, this is the Registration Start Date (found in SEDREF).	✓		
Column 19c: Pathway 1a  For R/Is that were registered in the past, this is the High School Registration End Date (found in SEDREF).  <i>For an R/I to select Pathway 1, the school's registration date must not expire during the school year for which it is selecting that pathway. If a registration end date is in this field prior to the end of the school year, the R/I will need to select a different pathway.</i>	✓		
Column 19d: Pathway 1b  For those middle or elementary schools choosing Pathway 1b, enter the affiliated/related registered high school name.		✓	
Column 19e: Pathway 1b  For those middle or elementary schools choosing Pathway 1b, enter the affiliated/related registered high school BEDS number.		✓	

## **PATHWAY 2 – 853, 4201, or Other State-Sponsored Schools**

If there is a “Y” in Column 20a or 20b, it is an indication that the school is on the “Listings of New York State’s (NYS) approved private schools” found on the [NYSED Office of Special Education](#) website.

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 20a: Pathway 2  853-Private Special Education School Indicator (if there is a “Y” in this column)	✓		

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 20b: Pathway 2  4201-State Run & State Supported Indicator (if there is a “Y” in this column)	✓		
Column 20c: Pathway 2  Other State-Operated School: Check here if this is another type of State-sponsored school listed in <a href="#">SEDREF</a>			✓

### **PATHWAY 3 – Accreditation**

Accreditation is not obtaining a Regent’s charter, a Commissioner’s consent or a BEDS code. This designation is completed by one of the [Department-approved outside accrediting agencies](#). LSAs should ensure that the R/I’s accreditation is effective throughout the current school year by reviewing the R/I accreditation letter/certificate.

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 21a: Pathway 3  For R/Is choosing Pathway 3, select the <a href="#">Department-approved accreditor</a> .			✓
Column 21b: Pathway 3  For R/Is choosing Pathway 3, enter the accreditation expiration date.		✓	

### **PATHWAY 6a & 6b/c - Assessments**

Any school taking Pathway 6a will need to complete Column 22, which provides a list of the [Department-approved](#) assessments.

Any school taking Pathway 6b or 6c does not have any additional columns to complete at this time.

For Pathway 6b, see Education Law § 3204(6)(a)(vi) which refers to the “proficiency metric,” and includes participation rate as well (see Education Law §3204[6][b][ii]).

For Pathway 6c, see Education Law § 3204(6)(a)(vii) which refers to the “participation rate metric.”



Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 22: Pathway 6a  Check the box for each <a href="#">Department-approved</a> assessment administered for Grades 3–12. Verify that approved assessments are given across applicable grade levels in the appropriate subjects per the approved assessment listing on the <a href="#">SE</a> webpage.			✓

## **PATHWAY 7a & 7b – LSA Review**

Information on conducting an LSA Review can be found starting on page 10 of the [Substantial Equivalency Implementation Guidance](#).

Any schools taking Pathway 7a will need to complete Column 23 and provide an upload of the appropriate determination.

Any schools taking Pathway 7b does not have any additional columns to complete at this time.

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox	Upload
Column 23: Pathway 7a  Upload the LSA's 1-2 page summary of the <u>final</u> positive determination or justification for the <u>final</u> negative determination, if not previously submitted within the past 7 years of decision.				✓

## **Section - R/Is Not Listed in Section 1**

***Complete this section for any religious or independent schools in your geographic boundaries that were not included above, including schools that do not have a BEDS number.***

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 1: Religious & Independent School Institution Name (R/I)		✓	

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 2: Physical Street Address of R/I (not mailing address)		✓	
Column 3: City/Town of R/I		✓	
Column 4: Zip Code of R/I		✓	
Column 5: R/I Corporate Name		✓	
Column 6: R/I BEDS Number		✓	
Column 7: R/I Institution ID		✓	
Column 8: ORISS Institution ID		✓	
Column 9: Grade Levels R/I Currently has Enrollment for in 2025-2026 (check all that apply)  <i>Select the grade levels the school currently has enrollment in. If the school is closed or not in the district, select the "NA" option</i>			✓
Column 10: SE Pathway Select the pathway chosen by the R/I.  <i>Note that Pathways 1, 2, 3, 6a, &amp; 7a require additional columns to be completed or reviewed.</i>			✓
Column 11: SE Status Select the status of the R/I's pathway.  <i>Indicate the status of where the LSA is at in evaluating the R/I's pathway selection. Please note some selections require additional columns to be completed or an email to be submitted to <a href="mailto:SESsupport@nysed.gov">SESsupport@nysed.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:Commissioner@nysed.gov">Commissioner@nysed.gov</a></i>			✓
Column 12: Date of SE Verification (Pathways 1-6); or Date/Anticipated Date of Recommendation/Determination (Pathway 7)  <b>**Note:</b> Pathways 1 through 6 must be verified each year. Pathway 7 final positive determination is valid for seven years.  Please select the appropriate month, day, and year.		✓	

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
<i>Enter the date the LSA made the decision or anticipates making its decision on the pathway status selected in Column 11.</i>			
<p>Column 13: If the R/I's Pathway 7 review has not yet been completed, as indicated in your Column 11 section, briefly explain.</p> <p><i>If the pathways status selected in Column 11 was "Pathway 7 review to be completed," it requires an explanation as to why the review has not been concluded.</i></p>		✓	
<p>Column 14: No Response from R/I school</p> <p>Please indicate how you have attempted to obtain the SE pathway selection from the R/I.</p> <p>Select all that apply.</p> <p><i>If the R/I has not been responsive to the LSA in selecting a pathway, answer this question. Districts should make every effort to contact the R/I using multiple methods of communication.</i></p>			✓

## **COLUMNS 15a-19 ARE PATHWAY SPECIFIC AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED FOR ONLY R/Is THAT SELECTED PATHWAYS 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 6a, & 7a.**

### **PATHWAY 1a & 1b – Registration**

Registration is not obtaining a Regent's charter, a Commissioner's consent, or a BEDS code. High School Registration is a process that eligible high schools complete with ORISS to allow them the privilege to issue valid New York State diplomas and administer Regents examinations. Their affiliated/related middle & elementary schools may also select Pathway 1. The definition for affiliated/related can be found on page 8 of the [Substantial Equivalency Implementation Guidance](#).

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
<p>Column 15a: Pathway 1a</p> <p>For R/Is that are registered, enter the Registration Status (found in SEDREF).</p> <p><i>This field should say “Registered.”</i></p>		✓	
<p>Column 15b: Pathway 1a</p> <p>For R/Is that are registered, enter the Registration Start Date (found in SEDREF).</p>		✓	
<p>Column 15c: Pathway 1a</p> <p>For R/Is that were registered in the past, enter the High School Registration End Date (found in SEDREF).</p> <p><i>For an R/I to select Pathway 1, the school’s registration date must not expire during the school year for which it is selecting that pathway. If a registration end date is in this field prior to the end of the school year, the R/I will need to select a different pathway.</i></p>		✓	
<p>Column 15d: Pathway 1b</p> <p>For those middle or elementary schools choosing Pathway 1b, enter the affiliated/related registered high school name.</p>		✓	
<p>Column 15e: Pathway 1b</p> <p>For those middle or elementary schools choosing Pathway 1b, enter the affiliated/related registered high school BEDS number.</p>		✓	

## **PATHWAY 2 – 853, 4201, or Other State-Sponsored Schools**

Any schools taking Pathway 2 will need to verify that the school is on the “Listings of New York State’s (NYS) approved private schools” found on the [NYSED Office of Special Education](#) website.

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
<p>Column 16: Pathway 2</p> <p>853-Private Special Education School, 4201-State Run &amp; State Supported, or Other State-Operated School</p> <p>Select the type of the R/I school, as confirmed by verifying it is on the “Listings of New York State’s (NYS) approved private schools” found on the <a href="#">NYSED Office of Special Education</a> website.</p>			✓

### **PATHWAY 3 – Accreditation**

Accreditation is not obtaining a Regent’s charter, a Commissioner’s consent or a BEDS code. This designation is completed by one of the [Department-approved outside accrediting agencies](#). LSAs should ensure that the R/I’s accreditation is effective throughout the current school year by reviewing the R/I’s accreditation letter/certificate.

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
<p>Column 17a: Pathway 3</p> <p>For R/Is choosing Pathway 3, select the <a href="#">Department-approved accreditor</a></p>			✓
<p>Column 17b: Pathway 3</p> <p>For R/Is choosing Pathway 3, enter the accreditation expiration date.</p>		✓	

### **PATHWAY 6a & 6b/c - Assessments**

Any school taking Pathway 6a will need to complete Column 18, which provides a list of the [Department-approved](#) assessments.

Any school taking Pathway 6b or 6c does not have any additional columns to complete at this time.

For Pathway 6b, see Education Law § 3204(6)(a)(vi) which refers to the “proficiency metric,” and includes participation rate as well (see Education Law §3204[6][b][ii]).

For Pathways 6c, see Education Law § 3204(6)(a)(vii) which refers to the “participation rate metric.”

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox
Column 18: Pathway 6a  Check the box for each <a href="#">Department-approved</a> assessment administered for Grades 3–12. Verify that approved assessments are given across applicable grade levels in the appropriate subjects per the approved assessment listing on the <a href="#">SE</a> webpage.			✓

## **PATHWAY 7a & 7b – LSA Review**

Information on conducting an LSA Review can be found starting on page 10 of the [Substantial Equivalency Implementation Guidance](#).

Any schools taking Pathway 7a will need to complete Column 19 and provide an upload.

Any schools taking Pathway 7b does not have any additional columns to complete at this time.

Column Description	Prepopulated from SEDREF	Manually Entered	Drop Down/Checkbox	Upload
Column 19: Pathway 7a  Upload the LSA's 1-2 page summary of the <u>final</u> positive determination or justification for the <u>final</u> negative determination, if not previously submitted within the past 7 years of decision.				✓

## **Section - No R/I within the LSA Geographic Boundaries**

*This section should only be completed if there are no R/Is within the LSA's geographic boundaries.*

 3

Please check the box below indicating that there are no religious or independent schools within your geographical boundaries.

☐ There are no religious or independent schools within this district's geographical boundaries.

## Section - Pathway 7 Attestation

*Identify if any R/I selected Pathway 7 and attest to your responses.*

As per the Regulations 130.7(c), for those R/Is selecting **Pathway 7**, please check the box to attest that the Date of SE Determination (Column 16 in Section 1 and/or Column 12 in Section 2) indicates the following: **(required)**

- ☐ I attest that the entries in the survey reflect whether the LSA has or has not yet made final substantial equivalency determinations and forwarded recommendations to the Commissioner for the Pathway 7 R/Is within its boundaries and, for R/Is for which no final substantial equivalency determination or recommendation has been made, the date on which the determination or recommendation is anticipated to be made (8 NYCRR 130.7[c]).
- ☐ I attest there are no R/Is within the geographic boundaries that have selected Pathway 7.

## Section - Attestation for all LSAs

*This is the final attestation confirming everything is accurate in the survey. (required)*

- ☐ I attest that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and adheres to Part 130 of the Commissioner's Regulations relating to religious and independent schools and substantially equivalent instruction for religious and independent school students.

# Appendix I

## Username Assistance

A CEO or Delegated Account Administrator of the school can look up User IDs if the CEO or DA/EA has difficulty locating their username. An e-mail can be sent to the SEDDAS Help Desk to request the correct User ID at [SEDDAS@nysed.gov](mailto:SEDDAS@nysed.gov).

## Password Assistance

1. Go to the [NYSED Business Portal](#) website.
2. On the top of the right-hand side, click on Reset Password.
3. Enter your username and email address then click in the check box next to where it says, “I’m not a robot.”
4. Click the Submit button.
5. You may be prompted to answer random questions for the reCAPTCHA system.
6. You will then get a confirmation page and an email will be sent to you to finish changing your password.
7. In your email, click the link that says “Reset Password.”
8. A new site will open, and you will choose your new password there. Enter it twice. The page will inform you if it is not correct or if you have used it before.
9. Go back [NYSED Business Portal](#) and enter your username and new password.

There is a separate [Business Portal Password Reset/Unlock Account](#) information document if you need additional assistance.