Substantial Equivalency (SE)
Local School Authority (LSA) Religious & Independent School Survey

New York State Education Department
Office of Religious and Independent School Support (ORISS)
Local School Authority (LSA) Substantial Equivalency Survey Information  
(Section 130.7 (b) (1-8))

- New York State compulsory education law places, with some exceptions, the primary responsibility for confirming that students attending nonpublic schools are receiving substantial equivalent instruction upon the Local School Authorities (LSAs). Substantial equivalency is based upon the provision of instruction in the core subjects required by state law (science, math, social studies, and English language arts). The regulation creates pathways through which religious and independent schools can demonstrate that their instruction meets the requirements.

- The Board of Regents promulgated Part 130 of the Commissioner’s Regulations regarding this statutory requirement.

- Completing the Substantial Equivalency Survey Form described in this document will help LSAs comply with Section 130.7(a) of the Commissioner's Regulations by providing the ORISS with a list of all nonpublic schools located within the LSA’s geographical boundaries.

- LSA’s reporting of all the nonpublic schools that serve compulsory age children (from age 6 to 16 in most jurisdictions, age 17 in others) within their geographical boundaries and the date of the last substantial equivalency determination made for each nonpublic school is due **September 1, 2023 and each September 1 thereafter**. The survey will reopen prior to December 1, 2023 for SE pathway reporting and enabling LSAs to report any additional information they were not able to by September 1.

- Pursuant to Section 130.7(b) of the Commissioner's Regulations, the SE reporting of **pathways** is due December 1, 2023.

- Note: LSA’s are only required to report the date of the last substantial equivalency determination by September 1, 2023 if the date is known.
LSA Substantial Equivalency (SE) Survey Form

• The SE Survey Form includes Section 1 & 2

• Section 1: LSA reviews the pre-populated list of religious and independent schools within your geographical boundaries and enter applicable SE information.

• Section 2: LSA manually enters information for schools that are not listed/pre-populated in section 1.
Accessing the SE Survey Via the NYSED Business Portal

Once the user has accessed the SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System, select ORISS, then a list of surveys that the user has access to will be displayed. The user should select “Substantial Equivalence Local School Authorities List”. 
Accessing the SE Survey Via the NYSED Business Portal (cont.)

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.

Password Assistance

1. Go to the 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 portal and enter your username and new password.

There is also a separate Business Portal Password Reset/Unlock Account information document if you need additional assistance.
SE Survey instructions

Click on ‘Preview Survey’ to view survey instructions.
Section 1: SE Prepopulated Information

The following information will be pre-populated:
• Religious & Independent School Institution Name
• BEDS Number
• Corporate Name
• Institution ID
• Office of Religious and Independent School Support (ORISS) Institution ID

The LSA is expected to verify this information and has the option to select if a listed school is no longer located in their geographic boundaries or if the school has closed.
SE *Pathways* (130.7(b)(1-8)) are not due until December 1, 2023. SE Determination date can be completed in the survey due September 1, 2023 if the determination date is already known.
Section 1: Items to complete

- Physical Address of School

- SE Pathway is a dropdown menu –
  - This can be completed now, if known, but the SE pathway selection will be due December 1, 2023

- Date of SE Determination
  - If known, the date of SE Determination can be entered in this field. If unknown, this information should be entered as soon as possible, but the due date specified in the regulations is “by September 1, 2023 and each September 1 thereafter”
Section 1: Items to complete (continued)

• Religious & Independent School High School Registration Status – drop down menu – select one for each school:
  • Applied for Registration
  • Fully Registered
  • Pending Registration
  • Not Registered
• HS Registration Start and End Dates (if applicable)
• Date of Accreditation expiration date (if applicable). Note this column is not shown in example on next page but will be on the survey
• Enter the grades served by the school
Section 1: Select last column if the listed school is no longer in your district or has closed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Grades Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>853-Private Special Education School</td>
<td>State Run &amp; State supported</td>
<td>(List all grades in this school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4201-State Run &amp; State supported</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 2: Include additional Religious & Independent school(s) in your geographic boundaries not listed/pre-populated in Question 1

Complete this section for any religious or independent schools in your district that are not listed above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious and Independent School Name</th>
<th>Physical address of school</th>
<th>BEDS Number</th>
<th>Corporate Name</th>
<th>Institution ID</th>
<th>ORISS Institution ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Add Row
LSA Certification

By submitting the SE document, the LSA is attesting that the information submitted is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

Certification

I certify 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 nonpublic schools and substantially equivalent instruction for nonpublic school students.
Questions

Contact the Office of Religious and Independent School Support:

• Email: SEsupport@nysed.gov
• Phone: 518-473-8202