



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK/ALBANY, NY 12234

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Re: Information for Educational Officials and Employers Regarding Secondary Diplomas Awarded by Nonpublic Schools in 'Registration Pending' Status

In order to streamline the evaluation of transcripts of students who have transferred from or graduated from one of New York State's nonpublic schools, the Department would like to clarify the process by which it grants registered status to nonpublic schools and our interpretation of their graduates' status.

Registration is voluntary for nonpublic schools. For those that participate, there is a multi-stage process as the school moves from the initial formation of the school corporation through the Board of Regents' awarding full status as a 'registered' school. Under most circumstances, the New York State Education Department's guidelines limit the right to administer Regents examinations and offer Regents diplomas to fully registered schools, although schools that are at earlier phases of the registration process are able to partner with registered schools (public or nonpublic) to make Regents examinations available to their students.

New nonpublic schools that will eventually become registered will have already obtained BEDS identification codes and been in communication with the Office of Nonpublic Schools, as well as meeting all statutory requirements. New secondary schools will usually have begun to enroll students in the 9th grade, adding additional grades each year. Their students may take Regents examinations in other registered schools as they advance through school, but when the first group of students reaches its senior year, the school may apply to the Department for registration.

At this point, usually in the spring of the year in which the first cohort of students is nearing graduation, the Department will conduct a site visit, confirm compliance with applicable laws and regulations and review data concerning student achievement. If the school meets the Department's criteria, it will be granted 'registration pending' status. It will hold this status, pending full approval of its registration by the Board of Regents. This usually occurs the following summer, although in some circumstances full approval may take a longer time. Since these schools will have their first graduating classes of seniors as they enter this 'registration pending' status, it is important that recipients of diplomas and other academic records from these schools are aware of the Board of Regents' policy regarding these schools. That is, as follows:

A "registration pending" status, authorizes a non-public secondary school to grant valid diplomas to students who successfully complete the course and assessment requirements for graduation. A secondary school with a "pending registration" status is also authorized to administer Regents examinations and/or Regents Competency Tests at the non-public school location. **Students who graduate from a non-public school with the "pending registration" status should be accorded the same rights and privileges as students from fully registered schools.**

Relevant/Application Regulations:

Part 100 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education

100.2(p) Registration of schools. "Nonpublic schools may be, and public elementary, intermediate, middle, junior high, and high schools shall be, registered by the Board of Regents pursuant to this subdivision upon recommendation by the commissioner. Only those public and nonpublic high schools which are registered by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the commissioner, may issue diplomas and administer Regents examinations."