



## *New York State Catholic Conference*

The Official Voice of the Catholic Church in the Empire State

Update 

As you recall, in response to concerns raised over inadequate instruction at some Jewish schools, the State Education Department (SED) had proposed “guidelines” that would have given authority to public school districts not only to oversee instruction at religious and independent schools, but also to determine whether our schools would be able to continue to operate. Although those “guidelines” were thrown out by the NYS Supreme Court on narrow procedural grounds, the SED advanced proposed regulations that would, if adopted by the Board of Regents, do essentially the same thing.

Education Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia, who spearheaded this initiative, has since announced her resignation, and a number of state legislators and members of the Board of Regents have expressed their opposition to the initiative, believing that SED should focus attention instead on the particular schools over which there are concerns. Despite the support we believe we have secured from Regents and lawmakers, we are working hard to ensure that the proposed regulations, as currently drafted, are defeated.

The NYS Catholic Conference and NYS Council of Catholic School Superintendents will continue these efforts, and may call upon you in the future to once again add your voice to help defend the independence and success of our Catholic schools. We will keep you posted as this issue continues to evolve. In the meantime, we extend to you our best wishes for an abundance of summertime blessings.

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