

## Jasmine Kim

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**From:** Leslie Templeman <Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 12:07 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Kim  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

Hello Ms. Kim – your questions are not “silly” but they need to be directed to NYSED’s Office of P-12 Education as they are related to secondary education and are not within my Office’s oversight. I suggest that you email [NYSEDP12@nysed.gov](mailto:NYSEDP12@nysed.gov) with your questions so that they can be shared with the correct unit(s) within the P-12 Office for a response.

Best.

Leslie Templeman

*Leslie E. Templeman, Director  
Office of College and University Evaluation  
NYS Education Department  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234  
(518) 474-1551  
[Leslie.templeman@nysed.gov](mailto:Leslie.templeman@nysed.gov)*

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**From:** Jasmine Kim <Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 9:35 AM  
**To:** Leslie Templeman <Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

Hello Ms.Templeman,

These might sound like silly questions, but your answers helped greatly with my understanding of online high schools last year. So I have several more follow-up questions for you.

1. Has the recent switch to online learning due to COVID-19 change NYSED’s stance on on-line or correspondence study?
2. What is the difference between chartered (incorporated) nonpublic high schools and registered nonpublic high schools in terms of high school diploma? Are nonpublic nonregistered high schools allowed to issue diplomas other than regents and local diplomas? If so, would that diploma be considered substantially equivalent/equivalent of a high school diploma? Some states do not have registration process like NYS. I am wondering what is the reason for the registration process? Is registration the best way to prove substantial equivalence?
3. When reviewing a high school diploma of a student who was a resident of another state (specifically diplomas from nonpublic high schools), do you have any advice on determining whether that diploma is “acceptable”?

From your earlier email, you mentioned consulting the rules of that state. For example, if a state accepts online diplomas, a NYS college can admit that student.

If I have more questions like these in the future, are you the right person to go to? Also, are there online resources for NYS colleges at NYSED website? I know that there are conferences for high school counselors and training on NYS high school diploma requirements. Are there something similar for college administrators/admissions personnel?

Looking forward to your reply!

Best,  
Jasmine Kim  
City University of New York (CUNY)  
University Application Processing Center  
Email: [jasmine.kim@cuny.edu](mailto:jasmine.kim@cuny.edu)

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**From:** Jasmine Kim  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:00 PM  
**To:** 'Leslie Templeman' <[Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov](mailto:Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

Ms. Templeman,

Thank you so much. This helps tremendously.

Jasmine Kim  
City University of New York (CUNY)  
University Application Processing Center  
Email: [jasmine.kim@cuny.edu](mailto:jasmine.kim@cuny.edu)

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**From:** Leslie Templeman <[Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov](mailto:Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Kim <[Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu](mailto:Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

That's a little more complicated. There isn't a regulation or policy that specifically says that the NYS Board of Regents doesn't recognize on-line or correspondence study as being the equivalent to a high school diploma; the policy is established by the fact that the Board of Regents has not identified any online or correspondence programs as being equivalent. I guess you could point them to Section 100.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education which outlines the requirements for a high school equivalency diploma, which is the only recognized equivalent of a high school diploma. There is no mention of on-line or correspondence diplomas in that regulation. Here's a link to Section 100.7. [https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I3652de20c22211ddb29d8bee567fca9f?viewType=FullText&originalionContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I3652de20c22211ddb29d8bee567fca9f?viewType=FullText&originalionContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

Hope this helps.

Leslie Templeman

*Leslie E. Templeman, Director  
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Albany, NY 12234  
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**From:** Jasmine Kim <[Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu](mailto:Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** Leslie Templeman <[Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov](mailto:Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

Hello Ms. Leslie Templeman,

Thank you so much for clarifying this. I would also appreciate it if you could point me to the NYS policy regarding the correspondence study for NYS residents. At times, parents and schools that our admissions office interact with demand to see this level of evidence.

Jasmine Kim  
City University of New York (CUNY)  
University Application Processing Center  
Email: [jasmine.kim@cuny.edu](mailto:jasmine.kim@cuny.edu)

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**From:** Leslie Templeman <[Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov](mailto:Leslie.Templeman@nysed.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 1:12 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Kim <[Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu](mailto:Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

**\*\*\*ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.\*\*\***

Dear Ms. Kim: High school completion is under the jurisdiction of the state in which the student was a resident. NYS does not recognize on-line or correspondence study as the equivalent to a high school diploma for New York State residents. That doesn't mean that a NYS College can't admit that student – it means that the student would have to earn a high school equivalency diploma before they can graduate from the college. Also, in order to be eligible for TAP, the NYS resident student would have to have a high school equivalency diploma or pass an ability to benefit test. If a student was a resident of a state that does recognize online or correspondence study as equivalent to a high school diploma that student would not be required to earn a NYS high school equivalency diploma in order to graduate from a NYS college.

I hope this is responsive.

*Leslie E. Templeman, Director  
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**From:** Jasmine Kim <[Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu](mailto:Jasmine.Kim@cuny.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** OCUEINFO <[OCUEINFO@nysed.gov](mailto:OCUEINFO@nysed.gov)>  
**Subject:** Virtual & Distance Education Diploma

Hello,

Does NYS recognize a high school diploma earned from a virtual or distance education schools? Could you please refer me to the NYS policy/law that states this?

Sincerely,

Jasmine Kim  
City University of New York (CUNY)  
University Application Processing Center  
Email: [jasmine.kim@cuny.edu](mailto:jasmine.kim@cuny.edu)

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