

AOE Implementation: Updated Rule Series 2200

Desk Audit of 2023 Rules Implementation

- The Agency of Education developed and implemented a desk audit/technical assistance survey for all non-therapeutic independent schools to confirm compliance under new requirements.
- These schools received an on-line compliance document titled “Independent School Technical Assistance (ISTA)” with a set of instructions for completion and a deadline for submission to the AOE.
- Therapeutic schools were exempt from this round of compliance monitoring.
- Independent schools were provided with the opportunity to choose whether or not to continue to receive public funding or opt to be ineligible to receive public funding.
- Documentation of ISTA desk audits and corresponding documentation is filed, by school response, with the Agency’s Independent School team.
- The Independent School Team provided targeted assistance, as required, on new program and tuition requirements and referred heads of school/principals to the Agency’s Special Education Team to confirm compliance with IDEA, which is within the Student Support Services Division.
- AOE provides ongoing monitoring of IDEA compliance via General Supervision and Monitoring System (GSMS)

AOE Timeline February 2024 - Present

- Beginning in February, 2024, AOE developed a transitional independent school renewal application to address new rules effective July 1, 2023.
- Additional changes were made necessary by another round of amendments to Series 2200 effective on July 1, 2024.
- The transitional application, upon final completion, will be sent to all independent schools that have already completed and forwarded a renewal application between 2020 and 2022. Many of these schools have already received a site review. The remaining schools are therapeutic which were exempt from the ISTA desk audit.
- The transitional application will confirm that all schools, due for a site review 2020 - 2022, meet updated/new requirements in effect on 7-1-24.

Independent School Plan to Address Backlog of School Site Review/Renewal Visits

Therapeutic Schools

- Therapeutic schools will receive a copy of the transitional application with instructions.
- The Independent School Team will review all applications to ensure therapeutic school compliance with new SBE Rule requirements, in effect on 7-1-2024.
- Therapeutic schools with applications that confirm compliance will receive a site review invitation from the IS Team.
- Therapeutic school renewal applications containing identified deficiencies will receive scheduled, targeted technical assistance from the Agency's Independent School Team until the school complies or until the AOE refers a recommendation for non-renewal to SBE.

Schools approved for public funding & those that opt out of public funding

- All non-therapeutic schools will receive a copy of the transitional application with instructions.
- The Independent School Team will review all applications to ensure compliance with new SBE Rules, 7-1-24.
- Independent Schools with applications that confirm compliance will receive a site review invitation from the IS Team.
- Any approved independent school applications containing deficiencies will receive targeted technical assistance until the school complies or until AOE refers a recommendation for non-renewal to SBE.

Next Steps

- ✓ The transition renewal application will become the standard application.
- ✓ The application will be sent out to all approved schools with 2023 & 2024 approval expiration dates.
- ✓ Independent School reviews completed prior to 7-1-24, that have submitted the transition application confirming compliance with new SBE Rules, 7-1-24, will have reports updated and ready for forwarding to the SBE Independent School Sub-Committee.
- ✓ AOE will develop the electronic annual assurances required by SBE Rule 2223.4 (1-15-25 deadline).