

Superintendent Madeline Chan
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Queens, NY 11368, Room 102
Email: mchan2@schools.nyc.gov

Superintendent Barbara Freeman
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Brooklyn, NY 11238
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Superintendent Karina Costantino
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Superintendent Anita Skop
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Superintendent Isabel DiMola
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Brooklyn, NY 11235
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Superintendent Alicja Winnicki
215 Heyward Street, Room 246
Brooklyn, NY 11206
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Superintendent Clarence Ellis
1224 Park Place, Room 130
Brooklyn, NY 11213
Email: CEllis3@schools.nyc.gov

July 27, 2015

Dear Superintendents Chan, Costantino, DiMola, Ellis, Freeman, Skop and Winnicki:

We are parents of current students, former students and former teachers at the Yeshivas on the attached list, which are in your School Districts. We are writing to express our deep concern about the poor quality and scant amount of secular education, particularly English instruction, at these Yeshivas.

We have been informed that New York law requires all nonpublic schools to provide an education that is “substantially equivalent” to that available in public schools. We have also been informed that under this requirement certain subjects, including English and mathematics or arithmetic, must be taught and that these required subjects must be taught in English from English language textbooks.

Based on our experience as parents, students and teachers at the listed Yeshivas, we are seriously concerned that these Yeshivas are not providing an education that meets the requirement of substantial equivalence. Generally speaking, at the listed Yeshivas, English and mathematics are taught from around age 7 to age 13 for an average combined time of only 90 minutes and on only four days a week. Other secular subjects are not taught at all, let alone taught in English. At these Yeshivas, English instruction for boys stops at age 13. Girls generally receive a better secular education than do boys but we are still concerned that it is not sufficient to prepare them for their futures.

We understand that the New York State Education Department's *Guidelines for Determining Equivalency of Instruction in Nonpublic Schools* charge the superintendent of schools in the relevant district with addressing serious concerns that are raised regarding the substantial equivalence of the education provided by nonpublic schools. We believe this letter raises such serious concerns and we respectfully urge you to investigate the quality of secular education and, in particular English instruction, at the listed Yeshivas and to take steps to ensure that pupils at these Yeshivas receive the essential and substantially equivalent education to which they are entitled.

We respectfully request you to look into the substantial equivalence of the education offered at the Yeshivas on the attached list. We ask you not to make this list public.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the contents of this letter in greater detail. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Cc: Chancellor Carmen Farina
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007
Email: CGFarina@schools.nyc.gov

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SIGNATORIES

We ask that you do not make the names of the persons and yeshivas on this list public. Neither the list of signatories nor the list of Yeshivas for investigation has been disclosed to Chancellor Farina. Any further communication should be with Norman Siegel or Herbert Teitelbaum of Siegel Teitelbaum & Evans, LLP, 260 Madison Avenue, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10016. Mr. Siegel can be reached at nsiegel@stellp.com or (212) 455-0300. Mr. Teitelbaum can be reached at (518) 441-9412.

First name	Last name	Affiliation	Yeshiva
		former student at	Yeshiva Tomehai Temimim Chabad / Lubavitch (Chovevei Torah- United Lubavitch Yeshiva)
		former student at	Krasna (Talmud Torah Toldos Hillel)
		former student at	Shopron (Bnei Shimon Yisroel-Sopron)
		former student at	Torah V'Yirah (Satmar-United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		former student at	Congregation Ohr Menachem
		former student at	United Lubavitcher Yeshivoh
		former student at	Shopron (Bnei Shimon Yisroel-Sopron)
		former student at	Pupa (Yeshiva Kehilath Yakov)
		former student at	Bobov (Bnei Tzion)
		former student at	Bobov (Bnei Tzion)
		former student at	Bobov (Yeshiva Chemdas Yisroel Kerem Shlomo)
		former student at	Mesivta Eitz Chaim
		former student at	Satmar (United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Krasna (Talmud Torah Toldos Hillel)
		former student	Munkatch (Yeshiva Minchas Elazar)
		former student at	Satmar (United Talmudic Academy - Torah V'Yirah)

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First name	Last name	Affiliation	Yeshiva
		parent of current student at	Krasna (Talmud Torah Toldos Hillel)
		former student at	Torah V'Yirah (Satmar-United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Munkatch (Yeshiva Minchas Elazar)
		former student at	Munkatch (Talmud Torah Tiferes Bunim)
		parent of current student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		former student at	Bais Rochel D'Satmar (High school)
		former student at	Bais Rochel D'Satmar (Elementary)
		former student at	Beth Hamedrash Shaarei Yosher
		former student at	Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion
		parent of current student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		former student at	Viznitz (Yeshiva Ahavas Yisroel)
		parent of current student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		former student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		former student at	Belz (Yeshiva Ketaneh)
		former student at	Beth Hamedrash Shaarei Yosher
		former student at	Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)
		former student at	Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion
		former student at	Mesivta Eitz Chaim
		former student at	Bobov (Yeshiva Chemdas Yisroel Kerem Shlomo)
		former student at	Yeshivas Boyan (Tiferes Mordechai Shlomo)
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)

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First name	Last name	Affiliation	Yeshiva
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		parent of current student at	Krasna (Yeshiva Bais Hillel)
		former student at	Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion
		former student at	Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion
		former student at	Satmar (United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Satmar (United Talmudic Seminary)
		former student at	Beth Hamedrash Shaarei Yosher
		former student at	Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion
		former student at	Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		former student at	Munkatch (Talmud Torah Tiferes Bunim)
		former student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		former tutor at	Belz (Yeshiva Ketaneh)
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		former student at	Vein (Yesode Hatorah-Adas Yereim)
		former student at	Yeshiva Karlin Stolin
		former student at	Satmar - Torah V'Yirah (United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Satmar - Torah V'Yirah (United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		former student at	Talmud Torah Of Kasho (Toras Refoel)

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First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Yeshiva
		former student at	Satmar (United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Satmar (United Talmudic Academy)
		former student at	Gerrer (Yeshiva Mesifta Bais Yisroel)
		former student at	Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)
		parent of current student at	Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)
		former student at	Belz (Bnos Malka)
		former student at	Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)
		former student at	Chust (Yeshiva Toras Chesed)
		former student at	Yeshiva Chasan Sofer (Shem M'shmuel)
		former student at	Shopron (Bnei Shimon Yisroel)
		former student at	Shopron (Bnei Shimon Yisroel)
		former student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		parent of current student at	Moushulo
		former student at	Shaarei Yosher
		former teacher at	Pupa (Kehilas Yakov)
		parent of current student at	Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)
		former student at	Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)
		former student at	Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)
		former student at	Yeshiva Chasan Sofer (Shem M'shmuel)

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Yeshivas to be Investigated

Yeshiva	District	Address
		25 Waverly Ave., Brooklyn, NY (alternate entrance on Washington Ave.)
Satmar (United Talmudic Academy)	13	
Bais Rochel D'Satmar (Elementary)	14	241 Keap St., Brooklyn, NY 11211
Bais Rochel D'Satmar (High school)	14	68-84 Harrison Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211
		35 Hewes St., Brooklyn, NY 11249 (also listed at 35 Williamsburg St. W., Brooklyn, NY 11249)
Krasna (Talmud Torah Toldos Hillel)	14	
Pupa (Yeshiva Kehilath Yakov)	14	206 Wilson St., Brooklyn, NY 11211
Satmar - Torah V'Yirah (United Talmudic Academy)	14	236 Marcy Ave Brooklyn, NY 11211
Satmar (United Talmudic Academy)	14	82 Lee Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211
Shopron (Bnei Shimon Yisroel-Sopron)	14	18 Warsoff Pl., Brooklyn NY 11205
Shopron (Bnei Shimon Yisroel)	14	215 Hewes St., Brooklyn, NY 11211
Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)	14	105 Heyward St., Brooklyn, NY 11206
Talmud Torah Of Kasho (Toras Refoel)	14	324 Penn St., Brooklyn, NY 11211
Torah V'Yirah (Satmar-United Talmudic Academy)	14	110 Throop Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11206
Viznitz (Yashiva Ahavas Yisroel)	14	2 Lee Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211
Belz (Yeshiva Ketaneh)	15	695 6 th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215
Bobov (Yeshiva Chemdas Yisroel Kerem Shlomo)	15	1149 38th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218
Yeshivas Boyan (Tiferes Mordechai Shlomo)	15	1205 44th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Congregation Ohr Menachem	17	1729 President St., Brooklyn, NY 11213
Lubavitch (Oholei Torah)	17	667 Eastern Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11213
Yeshiva Tomehai Temimim Chabad / Lubavitch (Chovevei Torah- United Lubavitch Yeshiva)	17	885 Eastern Pkwy., Brooklyn, NY 11213
Belz (Bnos Malka)	20	600 McDonald Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218
Belz (Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas)	20	1601 42nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11204
Beth Hamedrash Shaarei Yosher	20	4102 16th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204
Bobov (Bnei Tzion)	20	4206 15th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Bobover Yeshiva Bnei Zion	20	1533 48th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Chust (Yeshiva Toras Chesed)	20	5506 16th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204
Gerrer (Yeshiva Mesifita Bais Yisroel)	20	5407 16th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204
Krasna (Yeshiva Bais Hillel)	20	1623 44th St., Brooklyn, NY 11204
Mesivta Eitz Chaim	20	1577 48th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Munkatch (Talmud Torah Tiferes Bunim)	20	5202 13th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219

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Yeshiva	District	Address
Munkatch (Yeshiva Minchas Elazar)	20	4706 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Pupa (Kehilas Yakov)	20	4706 10th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Satmar - Torah V'Yirah (United Talmudic Academy)	20	5411 Fort Hamilton Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11219
Skver (Mosdos Chasidei Skver / Toldos Yakov Yosef)	20	1373 43rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11219
Vein (Yesode Hatorah-Adas Yereim)	20	1350 50th St. Brooklyn, NY 11219
Yeshiva Chasan Sofer (Shem M'shmuel)	20	1876 50th St., Brooklyn, NY 11204
Moushulo	21	7914 Bay Pkwy., Brooklyn, NY 11214 (Renting space from Yeshiva Ohel Moshe)
United Lubavitcher Yeshivoth	21	841 Ocean Pkwy, Brooklyn NY 11230 (central headquarters Chabad Lubavitch: 770 Eastern Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11213)
Yeshiva Karlin Stolin	21	1818 54th St. Brooklyn NY 11204
Satmar (United Talmudic Seminary)	24	74-10 88th St., Queens, NY 11385