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Statement from YAFFED on New York Court of Appeals Ruling Affirming State's Authority to Enforce Basic Education Standards

Today's unanimous ruling by the New York State Court of Appeals is a critical affirmation of the state's responsibility—and authority—to ensure that all children in New York, including those in nonpublic schools, receive a basic education that prepares them for life. This decision soundly rejects arguments that the regulations overstep state law and recognizes the regulations as a natural extension of the state's mandate to enforce the Compulsory Education Law.

This represents a significant victory for the thousands of New York children in Hasidic yeshivas who are being denied a basic education in secular subjects like math, English, history and science. The ruling ensures that oversight mechanisms remain intact and that the state can continue to identify schools that fail to provide a substantially equivalent education.

YAFFED was proud to submit an amicus brief in this case and is encouraged that many of our arguments were reflected in the Court's reasoning. This decision reinforces what we have long said: the state not only has the right but the obligation to intervene when schools are not meeting their legal and moral responsibilities to their students.

The fight for educational justice is far from over. Today's ruling strengthens the legal foundation for future challenges and confirms that our children's futures cannot be sacrificed in the name of political expediency or deference to institutional neglect.

We will continue to advocate—inside and outside the courtroom—until every child in New York receives the education they deserve.

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