

Ivy Ridge Academy accreditation rejected; New York Officials Declare Academy at Ivy Ridge "Educational Fraud"

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The Academy at Ivy Ridge will not be allowed to resume issuing high school diplomas.

The State Education Department has rejected the Academy's application, according to stories Friday in St. Lawrence County newspapers and *The Watertown Times*.

A letter from the State Education Department to Ivy Ridge quoted in the *Watertown Times* says, "The Department's review revealed that AIR is principally a behavior modification program and not a school..."

Ivy Ridge Director Jason Finlinson is quoted as saying he was blindsided by the letter.

Earlier, an investigation by State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer found that the Academy was issuing bogus diplomas. Ivy Ridge agreed to reimburse affected families more than \$1 million.

Since then the Academy's enrollment has dropped sharply as it has been unable to offer prospective clients the chance to graduate from high school.

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