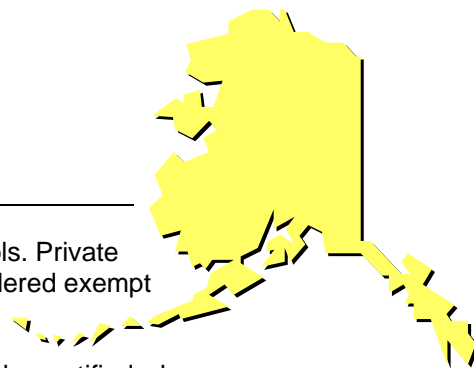


Alaska



Alaska makes a distinction between “exempt” and “non-exempt” schools. Private schools that choose to comply with certain state regulations are considered exempt schools and are exempted from some other state regulations. For instance, exempt schools must give a standardized test, while non-exempt schools need not do so; teachers in non-exempt schools must be certified whereas teachers in exempt schools do not face the same requirement. The distinction between “exempt” and “non-exempt” schools is separate from the state’s accreditation process.

ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools that want to follow the state standards for accreditation of public schools may do so to achieve accredited status as a private school, but such action is voluntary in Alaska and not required to operate a private school.
- The state Department of Education may not require the licensing of private schools.

Applies only to non-exempt private schools

- Non-exempt private schools must hire certified teachers.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must have written and clearly stated policy on corporal punishment that details who may administer punishment, the circumstances under which it may be administered, the type of punishment and instrument to be used, privacy issues and witnesses to the punishment. This applies to all private schools whether they seek accreditation or not.
- Private schools must obtain parental consent before administering punishment. This applies to all private schools whether they seek accreditation or not.
- Parents must notify the local public school superintendent if a child attends private school instead of public school.
- A private school must notify the local public school superintendent if a child no longer attends the private school.
- Each school must make composite test results for the school available annually to an authorized representative of the state Department of Education.
- All private schools must maintain monthly attendance records for each student and must annually report to the state commissioner of education the school calendar and the number of students in each grade.

Applies only to exempt schools

- Exempt schools must maintain permanent student records reflecting immunizations, physical examinations, standardized testing, academic achievement and courses taken. The chief administrative officer of the school must certify to the state Department of Education, under oath or by affirmation, that the records are being maintained.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must operate on a regular schedule, excluding reasonable holidays and vacations, during at least 180 days of the year.

Applies only to exempt schools

- Exempt private schools must administer a nationally standardized test selected by the chief administrative officer of the school to all students in grades four, six, and eight at least once each school year. The test must measure achievement in English grammar, reading, spelling and mathematics. Schools must maintain records of the results of the tests, which must be made available to parents.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- The state must assure healthful and safe conditions in private schools, including a requirement of physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools. The standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools.
- Private schools may require that school safety patrols be established to assist students in crossing streets and highways adjacent to schools.
- The principal or other people in charge of each private school must instruct and train students by means of drills so that in an emergency they may be able to leave the school building in the shortest possible time without confusion or panic. Drills must be held at least once each month during the school term, weather permitting.
- Private schools must comply with state laws concerning missing children.

MISCELLANEOUS

- In places where the state Department of Education or a school district provides transportation for children attending public schools, the department also must provide transportation for children who attend private schools if the children must travel distances comparable to, and over routes the same as, the distances and routes over which the children attending public schools are transported.



This list was compiled by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice based on publicly available laws and regulations. In each state we sought the assistance of the state's Department of Education in ensuring the accuracy of our information. However, given the enormous volume of relevant laws and regulations, some errors or omissions may still occur. The Friedman Foundation welcomes suggestions for corrections or additions to this list. For more information on the regulation of private schools, see "Fifty Educational Markets: State Laws and Regulations Governing Private Schools" by Friedman Foundation Senior Fellow Chris Hammons.