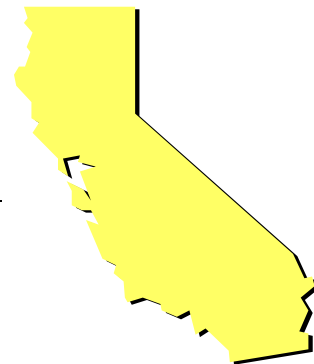


CALIFORNIA



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- Any school, person or agency desiring to obtain certification as a private school must file an application with the state superintendent of education. Each application must include the name and address of the school; the name of the administrator and contact person; the telephone and fax numbers; names of teachers with credentials in special education and the types of disabling conditions served; the age, sex and grade levels served; the total capacity of the educational program; a brief description of the program; per-hour, per-day or monthly fees charged; written directions and a street map describing the location of the school from the major freeways, roads, streets, thoroughfares and the closest major airport; tuberculosis inoculation expiration dates for all staff; a criminal record summary or criminal history clearance dates for all staff who may have contact with students; a list of school districts, county offices of education and special education local plan areas for whom the applicant has a contract to provide educational and/or related services; for out-of-state applicants, a copy of the current certification or license by the state education agency to provide special education services; for in-state private schools providing educational services to six or more students, a copy of the Private School Affidavit that has been filed with their county superintendents of schools (see below); a copy of the current school year calendar; and a fire inspection clearance completed within the past 12 months.
- Certification lasts for two years. An annual renewal application is required, in which the school must update information that has changed since its previous application.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- The attendance of students must be kept in a register by private school authorities and the record of attendance must indicate clearly every absence from school for a half day or more during each school day.
- Parents of current or former students have a right to access any and all student records related to their children.
- Whenever a student transfers from a private school to a school district within the state, the student's permanent record or a copy thereof must be transferred by the school upon request from the district where the pupil intends to enroll. Any school district requesting such a record transfer must notify the parents of their right to receive a copy of the record and a right to a hearing to challenge its contents.
- Every private school must file with the local superintendent of public instruction, between the first and 15th day of October of each year, an affidavit or statement, under penalty of perjury, by the owner or other head of the school, setting forth the following information for the current year: all names, whether real or fictitious, under which the person, firm, association, partnership or corporation running the school has done and is doing business; the address of every place of business of the person, firm, association, partnership or corporation within California; the address of the location of the records of the person, firm, association, partnership or corporation and the name and address of the custodian of those records; the names and addresses of the directors and principal officers of the person, firm, association, partnership or corporation; school enrollment by grade; the number of teachers; whether enrollment is coeducational or single-sex; any

boarding facilities; and a statement that the following records are maintained at the stated address and are true and accurate: the courses of study offered by the institution; the names, addresses and educational qualifications of its faculty; and criminal record summary information.

- When a student of compulsory attendance age leaves a private school for any reason, the school must report this to the local county superintendent of schools. The report must include names, ages, last known address and the reason for each severance.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must teach in English.
- Private schools must offer instruction in “the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools.”
- County superintendents of schools may enter into agreements with private schools to provide programs and classes in outdoor science education and conservation education for private school students. The private school must pay for the actual cost of providing the programs or classes.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- All school bus drivers and students who are transported in a school bus must receive instruction in emergency procedures and passenger safety. The required components of these procedures are specified at length.
- The chief of any city or county fire department or district providing fire protection services, and his or her authorized representatives, must inspect every private school building within his or her jurisdiction at least once a year.
- The governing authority of every private school that maintains any building used for the instruction or housing of students on land entirely enclosed by fences or walls (except for building walls) must, through cooperation with local law enforcement and fire protection agencies, make provision for the construction of gates in those fences or walls. The gates must be of sufficient size to permit the entrance of ambulances, police equipment and firefighting apparatus used by the local law enforcement and fire protection agencies. There must be at least one access gate, and there must be as many gates as needed to ensure access to all major building and grounds areas. If the gates are equipped with locks, the locking devices must be designed to permit ready entrance by the use of the chain- or bolt-cutting devices with which the local law enforcement and fire protection agencies are equipped.
- Police must notify a private school if a school employee or teacher is arrested for possession of a controlled substance.
- Students must use approved eye protection in labs and vocational or technical classes where such protection is warranted.
- All private schools must maintain a first-aid kit on campus.
- All private schools must take a first-aid kit when taking students on a wilderness field trip. A teacher with certified training in first aid must accompany students on the trip. In wilderness areas where snakes might be present, the first-aid kit must contain a snake-bite kit and any teacher on the trip should have training in how to administer such aid.
- No toxic substances (including art or lab chemicals) may be used by students in grades one through six. Students in grades seven to 12 may use such substances only with proper instruction. All such chemicals must be stored properly and labeled.
- All private schools must develop a disaster plan and earthquake plan and hold a practice once a quarter. The required components of these plans are specified at length.

- Private schools must require each applicant for employment in a position requiring contact with minor students to submit two sets of fingerprints prepared for submittal by the employer to the Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining criminal record summary information from the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, unless the applicant possesses a valid credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing or is licensed by another state agency that requires a criminal record summary that meets or exceeds the requirements for private schools. Schools may not employ a person who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony or a person who would be prohibited from employment by a public school district because of his or her conviction for any crime.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A county superintendent of schools may allow the transportation of local private school students under the same terms, in the same manner and over the same routes of travel as is permitted to public school students.
- The lending of textbooks without charge to private school students is prohibited.
- County superintendents of schools may enter into agreements with private schools to provide for the use of audiovisual curriculum materials, including equipment and apparatus. The agreement must provide for an amount of payment equal to the cost incurred in connection with the handling, loss, destruction or damage to the materials. Such agreements may only be entered into when the materials are not needed by the public schools or the county superintendent.
- Private schools may order instructional materials from the state board.
- Private schools are exempt from state park fees for school field trips arranged through the Department of Parks and Monuments. The exemption extends to students, their escorts, teachers, supervisory personnel and bus drivers.
- Property used exclusively for school purposes are exempt from taxation.
- School meals provided to students by private schools are exempt from sales tax.



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.