

COLORADO



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

- Private schools need not be accredited in Colorado, but may seek accreditation from one of several approved private agencies. The only state requirement is that private schools offer a “basic academic education” that entails some general curriculum requirements (see below).

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must provide, whenever requested by the local board of education (no more than once a month), a written statement containing the name, age, place of residence and number of days of attendance at school (during the preceding month or since the preceding report) of all students attending the school or who have attended since the preceding report.
- Private schools have access to records maintained by the state Department of Education regarding potential employees’ past unlawful conduct with children or allegations of such conduct.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must offer a “basic academic education” for a minimum of 172 days.
- A "basic academic education" means a sequential program of instruction including communication skills of reading, writing and speaking; mathematics; history; civics; literature; and science.
- Private schools must give regular courses of instruction in the U.S. Constitution beginning no later than the opening of the junior high school or seventh grade and continuing in high school.
- All private schools must teach respect for the American flag.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- No child may attend any private school unless he or she has presented to the appropriate school official: an up-to-date certificate of immunization from a licensed physician or authorized representative of the Department of Public Health and Environment or a local health department stating that the child has received immunization against communicable diseases as specified by the state Board of Health or a written authorization signed by one parent. Students may be exempted for medical or religious reasons. Private schools are required to suspend or expel students who fail to get immunizations, unless they are exempted.
- Each school must maintain on file an official certificate of immunization for every student enrolled. The certificate must be returned to the parent (or the student if he or

she is 18 or older) when a student withdraws, transfers, is promoted or otherwise leaves the school. The school must transfer the certificate with the student's school record if the student is transferring to a new school.

- Private schools may not use any fire extinguisher or fire-extinguishing device that contains carbon tetrachloride or an active agent having a level of vapor toxicity equal to or greater than carbon tetrachloride.
- Eye-protective devices must be worn in courses including, but not limited to, vocational or industrial art shops or laboratories and chemistry, physics or combined chemistry-physics laboratories, at any time when an individual is engaged in or observing an activity or use of hazardous substances that is likely to cause injury to the eyes.
- School employees are required to report evidence of child abuse.
- All job applicants to a private school must be fingerprinted and undergo a federal and state background check, at school expense.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Real and personal property used solely for schools is exempt from taxation.
- Private school teachers, school nurses and school administrators may participate in in-service education institutes or curriculum-development programs conducted by school districts or boards of cooperative services. At the discretion of the school district or board of cooperative services conducting the institutes or programs, private school participants may be required to pay the pro rata share of the cost of participation.
- State law provides for cooperative ventures in teacher education programs between public and private schools and institutions of higher education.



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.