

# KANSAS

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## ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

### **Applies to all private schools**

- All private schools must register their names and addresses with the state Board of Education.
- Private schools may be accredited by the state if they wish.
- Religious institutions objecting to the state high school curriculum may establish private high schools upon application of the state Board of Education. Approval is for two years if the school meets the following requirements:
  - Each participating student must be engaged, during each day on which attendance is legally required in the public schools in the school district in which the student resides, in at least five hours of learning activities appropriate to the adult occupation that the child is likely to assume in later years.
  - Acceptable learning activities include projects supervised by a parent (or person acting as parent) in agriculture and homemaking, work-study programs in cooperation with local business and industry, and correspondence courses from schools accredited by the National Home Study Council.
  - At least 15 hours a week of classroom work under the supervision of an instructor is provided, at which time students must file written reports of the learning activities they have pursued since the time of the last class meeting, indicating the length of time spent on each one. The instructor shall examine and evaluate such reports, approve plans for further learning activities and provide necessary assignments and instruction.
  - Regular attendance reports must be filed and students must be reported absent for each school day on which they have not completed the prescribed minimum of five hours of learning activities.
  - The instructor must keep complete records concerning instruction provided, assignments made and work pursued by the students. These records must be filed on the first day of each month with the state Board of Education and the board of the school district in which the student resides.
  - The instructor must be capable of performing competently the functions entrusted to him or her.
  - In applying for approval, a recognized church or religious denomination must certify its objection to a regular public high school education and must specify, in such detail as the state Board of Education may reasonably require, the program of instruction that it intends to provide. No such program may be approved unless it fully complies with standards that are specified by the board.
  - If the sponsors of an instructional program approved under this provision fail to comply at any time with its requirements, the board must – after a written warning has been served and three weeks has been provided compliance – rescind approval of the programs, even though the two-year approval period has not elapsed. Children attending the program subsequently must be admitted to a high school of the local school district.

### **Applies only to accredited private schools**

- Each school is classified as one of the following: accredited; accredited on improvement; conditionally accredited; or not accredited. Each school that seeks initial accreditation by the state Board of Education is designated a candidate school and is granted accredited status until its status can be determined

- If a school is “accredited on improvement” or “conditionally accredited,” it must develop and implement a corrective action plan approved by the state technical assistance team assigned to the school and must implement any corrective action required by the state board. Each accredited on improvement school that fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria in regard to all students assessed, or four or more of its quality criteria, is downgraded to conditionally accredited. Each school that is conditionally accredited and that, for a fifth consecutive year, fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria or four or more of the quality criteria shall be classified as not accredited. Any school that is accredited on improvement or conditionally accredited may become accredited or accredited on improvement, respectively, by meeting the criteria for that accreditation status for two consecutive years.
- Any private school may seek a waiver of any specific accreditation requirement by filing a written request to the state commissioner of education, explaining how the exemption would “enhance improvement” at the school. The commissioner makes a recommendation to the state Board of Education within 30 days. The board makes the final decision.
- Accredited private schools must use licensed teachers for core subjects.

## TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

### **Applies to all private schools**

- When students transfer from a private school to another school, the school to which the student transfers is entitled to know the name and address of the previous school in which the student was enrolled so that the student’s records may be requested.
- Each private school is required to designate one employee to verify the enrollment of students and report missing or truant students to state or local officials. State law defines truancy. Schools must attempt to contact parents before notifying local authorities.
- All students must present proof of identity (such as a birth certificate) before enrolling in any school. Upon notice from a law enforcement agency that a particular child has been reported missing, the school should “make note of the same in a conspicuous manner on the school records of the child and shall keep such school records separate from the school records of all other children enrolled in the school.” If the school receives a request for the student’s records, the school must notify local law enforcement.
- Private schools must adopt a written policy for evaluating employees and follow state guidelines for evaluation.
- Each private school must coordinate with the local school board to determine the number of special needs and students with disabilities who are enrolled in each school.

### **Applies only to accredited private schools**

- Each accredited private school must submit to the state Department of Education, upon request, the qualifications of its teachers, its student attendance, the number of high school students who graduate and any other data requested.

## CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

### **Applies to all private schools**

- Private schools must conduct classes on a calendar “substantially equivalent to the period of time public school is maintained in the school district in which the private school is located.”

### **Applies only to accredited private schools**

- All accredited private elementary schools must provide and give a complete course of instruction to all students in civil government, U.S. history and patriotism and the duties of

a citizen that is suitable to the elementary grades. All accredited private high schools must give a course of instruction concerning the government and institutions of the United States, and particularly of the U.S. Constitution. A student who has not taken and satisfactorily passed such a course has not met graduation requirements thus may not be graduated from high school.

- Every accredited private elementary school must teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, spelling, English grammar and composition, the history of the United States and of the state of Kansas, civil government and the duties of citizenship, and health and hygiene, together with any other subjects the state Board of Education may require.
- Accredited private high schools must follow state guidelines for high school graduation, which includes a minimum of 21 academic credits across various disciplines.
- Accredited private schools may participate in the state safety fund, which reimburses students for the cost of driver's education programs.
- Each accredited private school must have 95 percent or more of all students, and 95 percent or more of each student subgroup, take the state assessments.
- Each accredited private school must have an improvement plan that includes a results-based staff development plan.
- Each accredited private school must have programs and services to support student learning and growth at both the elementary and secondary levels, including computer literacy; counseling services; fine arts; language arts; library services; mathematics; physical education, which must include instruction in health and human sexuality; science; services for students with special learning needs; and history and government.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### **Applies to all private schools**

- Students under age nine must present a health assessment to school officials before enrolling. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified nurse or physician. The assessment is confidential to anyone other than school officials and medical personnel. Waivers for religious and medical reasons are permitted.
- Students enrolling in private schools must present documentation of immunization. Waivers for medical or religious reasons are permitted.
- No person with a contagious or dangerous disease may be admitted to any private school.
- All private schools must provide basic vision screening tests to students not less than once every two years.
- All school buildings must be inspected at least once a year by either the local fire chief or fire marshal. Schools may be ordered to fix violations of the state fire code. Schools may appeal the order for review by an appellate commission.
- All private schools must conduct fire drills at least once a month during school hours.
- All private schools must conduct at least three tornado drills a year during school hours.
- The use of tobacco products in any school building is prohibited.
- All private school buildings must comply with state code.
- Teachers and students must wear proper eye protection in courses or when participating in activities that could involve eye hazards.
- School buses must meet state safety standards.

### **Applies only to accredited private schools**

- All accredited private schools must provide basic hearing tests to students upon admission and at least once every three years afterwards.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Applies to all private schools**

- Property used exclusively for educational purposes is exempt from property taxation.
- Every private school must have a proper flag of the United States and state flag and must display the flags in the proper manner.

### **Applies only to accredited private schools**

- Students who attend accredited private schools may ride on public school buses as long as the private school is along the regular school bus route.



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.