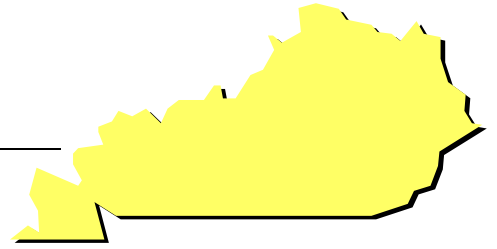


# KENTUCKY

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## ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

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

- If they wish, private schools may be certified by the state, but this is voluntary. To be certified, private schools must first become accredited by a recognized regional accrediting agency, then apply to the Kentucky Nonpublic School Commission, a private organization authorized by the state to screen private schools for certification. If the commission votes to recommend the school for certification, the state Board of Education then votes on whether to certify it. Schools may apply for interim certification, which is good for one year, while they are in the process of obtaining accreditation from a recognized regional accrediting agency.
- If students transfer into a public high school from a private high school that is not either recognized by one of the 50 state departments of education or seven designated regional accrediting agencies, the student's high school credits will only be recognized if the student either passes an examination or obtains a C average by the twelfth week of school.

## TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

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

- A private school must notify the local board of education of students attending the school, providing their names, ages and place of residence. Alternatively, the school may notify the parent or guardian of each child to give proper notice to the local school board.
- Private schools must keep attendance records in a register provided by the state Board of Education and make attendance reports available to the state board in the same manner as public schools.
- All private schools are open to inspection by officials of the state Department of Education.
- Any unmarried student ages 16 to 18 who wants to drop out of school may do so only after a conference with the school principal and a parent or guardian. Both parent and child are required to attend an hour-long counseling session on the potential hazards of dropping out of school.

## CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

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

- Instruction in private schools must be offered in English.
- Private schools must offer instruction in the several branches of study required to be taught in the public schools of the state, which includes reading, writing, spelling, grammar, history, mathematics and civics.
- The length of the school year of private schools must be at least as long as the school year of public schools in the same district, with a minimum of 175 six-hour days or the equivalent.

### **Applies only to certified private schools**

- Certified private schools must comply with curriculum and textbook standards established by the state Department of Education.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Applies to all private schools

- The state's Cabinet for Health Services regulates certain public health matters relating to the detection, prevention and control of communicable diseases and health hazards relating to sanitation and safety in private schools.
- The Kentucky Department of Education provides a list of all missing children reported in the state to all private schools every month. In the event that a child reported missing has any contact with a private school, the school must notify state police.
- The use of machinery in connection with teaching the mechanical arts is subject to approval of the local Board of Education.
- All private schools are subject to inspection for asbestos. The state reviews private school asbestos management plans.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Public school districts that contract to furnish transportation to private school students may not use public school funds to pay for the transportation.
- The county clerk shall make voter registration forms available to private schools upon request.



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.