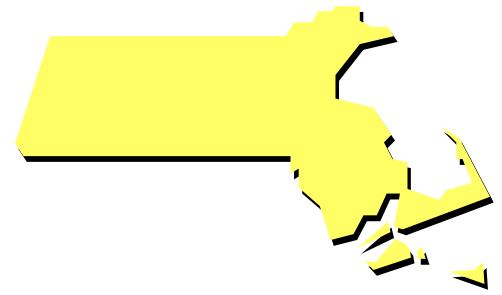


MASSACHUSETTS



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- All private schools must be approved by the local school committee (the local education agency). The school is approved when the local school committee is “satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town.” School committees may not withhold approval because of the school’s religious teachings.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must comply with local school committees to verify enrollment and attendance of students at the school.
- Private schools must, within 30 days after the enrollment or registration of any student, report the student’s name, age and residence to the local superintendent of schools. When a student withdraws from a private school, the school must notify the superintendent within 10 days.
- A person in charge of a private school or a private school teacher must furnish information or reports requested by a court relating to the attendance, conduct and standing of a student enrolled in the school, if the student is at the time awaiting examination or trial by the court or is under the supervision of the court.
- Private schools must furnish a written transcript to any student or former student upon request. There may be no charge for the first transcript furnished, and no charge of more than \$1 per page or \$5 total for each duplicate or additional transcript.
- When a private school ceases operation, the owner or administrators must transfer transcripts of all students and former students to the state Department of Education.
- When a student transfers to another private or public school, the student’s records must be transferred to that school.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must hold class the same number of days as local public schools.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- Parents of private school students may request a health examination of their children similar to the one conducted for public school students, to be paid for at public expense. The health exam is to be used to ascertain sight, hearing, postural and other physical defects and defects of the feet that may affect the student’s health or physical efficiency. A physical record of each student’s examination is to be created. These tests are to be conducted on a periodic basis.
- All students entering kindergarten must certify to school health officials that they have passed a vision-screening test within the previous year. Parents may object to the initial

- screening on religious grounds. Children who fail the screening must provide documentation on whether they are receiving treatment or therapy and whether educational adjustments need to be made to assist them in the classroom.
- Any private school teacher or official who has reasonable cause to believe that a child under age 18 is suffering abuse or neglect or who is physically dependent on an addictive drug at birth, must immediately report this condition to the proper authorities orally and in writing within 48 hours after the oral communication. No person may be held liable in any civil or criminal action for making such a report.
 - People convicted of selling or manufacturing controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a private school must receive a sentence of no less than two years.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Private school students are entitled to the same transportation to and from school as is provided by law for public school students, and may not be denied such transportation because their attendance is in a school that is conducted under religious auspices or that includes religious instruction in its curriculum.
- A school committee must provide transportation for any student attending an approved private school within the boundaries of the school district, provided that the distance between the student's residence and the private school is greater than two miles (or any other minimum distance established by the local school committee). If a private school student lives beyond the school district boundaries, the school committee is required to transport that student only the distance from the student's residence to the public school the student is entitled to attend.
- Private school students riding public mass transit systems during school days may be charged no more than half the normal rate.
- Textbooks purchased with public funds may not be loaned to private schools.



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.