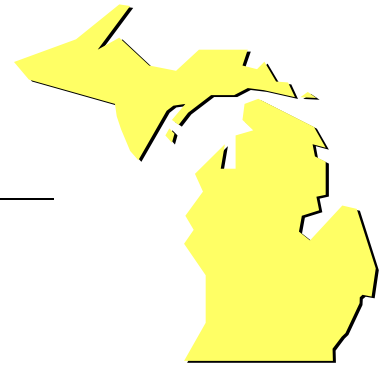


MICHIGAN



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- All private schools must obtain state approval.
- The local superintendent of public instruction has supervision of all private schools attended by children below age 16 in the first eight grades.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- By early October of each school year, private schools must report the number of students in each grade, teacher qualifications and the course of study offered.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must provide curricula comparable to those provided in the local school district, including mathematics, reading, English, science and social studies in all grades, and in high school the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Michigan, and the history and present form of civil government of the United States, Michigan and the political subdivisions and municipalities of Michigan..
- English must be the basic language of instruction in all private schools, except in instances when a student is learning a second language, when bilingual instruction is taking place to assist children with limited English proficiency or when another language is used in religious instruction.
- Private school teachers must have a bachelor's degree or teaching certificate. Under a Michigan Supreme Court decision, schools may claim exemption from this requirement on religious grounds.
- Private schools may not use textbooks or instructional materials that promote physical or mental stereotypes.
- Private schools may participate in public school "shared time instruction" in classes such as band, shop, advanced math and science.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- All students must present evidence of immunization upon entering school, and again upon enrollment in sixth grade. A child is exempt if a physician testifies that immunization is unnecessary or detrimental to the child's health or if parents object for religious or philosophical reasons.
- Each year, the principal or administrator of a private school must report to the state and local health departments the immunization status of newly entering kindergarten and first-grade students at the time of entry.
- If the immunization level in any grade in a private school falls below the level necessary to guard against the spread of disease in the grade or school, school officials may mandate immunization as a condition for enrollment.

- All children enrolling in kindergarten must have a vision test prior to enrollment. Exemptions are provided for those who object for religious reasons.
- Examinations and health services provided to students in public schools will be provided to students in private schools.
- All schools buses used by private schools must pass state inspection.
- All school bus drivers must pass a state-mandated bus safety course. People in charge of bus operations must complete the course plus six hours of continuing education every two years. The cost of the course is equal for public and private schools.
- Private schools must conduct state and federal criminal background checks all employees.
- If a person seeks employment at a school, past employers are required to disclose to the school any record of unprofessional conduct. Schools are prohibited from hiring any person who refuses to sign a form requesting the disclosure of this information.
- If an employee of a private school is convicted of a sex crime, the prosecuting attorney must notify the private school, which must then notify the state Board of Education.
- Private schools must comply with federal standards regarding asbestos treatment and removal.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The local school board may allow public school buses to transport students to private school on regular school days when public school is in session if the school is further than 1.5 miles from the student's home and is on the regular bus route. The school district is not obligated to transport students to private schools outside the district (unless it also transports public school students outside the district, in which case it must transport private school students at least the same distance).
- Property owned by private schools is tax exempt.
- Meals or books sold by private schools to their own students are tax exempt.
- The board of a school district that provides auxiliary services to its students must provide the same auxiliary services on an equal basis to private school students. The board may use state school aid to pay for the auxiliary services. Auxiliary services covered by this requirement include health and nursing services and examinations, street crossing-guards services, National Defense Education Act testing services, teachers providing speech and language services, school social work services, school psychological services, teacher consultant services and other ancillary services for pupils with disabilities, remedial reading services and other services determined by the legislature. A school district providing any of these services must notify each private school in the district that the services are available. The district board may appoint an auxiliary services committee that includes representation from both public and private schools in the district.
- Educational media centers operated by school districts may serve private schools.
- Private school students may participate in elective classes offered in public schools, and in science and math programs run by the state.



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.