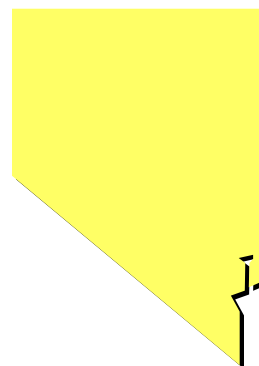


# NEVADA

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All private schools in Nevada must be licensed by the state. Church-affiliated private schools may seek an exemption from the licensing requirement if they wish.



## ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

### **Applies only to unlicensed schools**

- Church-affiliated schools that seek exemption from the state's licensing requirement must provide a copy of the school's incorporation papers; written assurance that the school offers classes and schedules commensurate with the state courses of study; a school calendar showing holidays, beginning and ending dates of terms and other important dates; a list of grade levels offered and the number of teachers for each grade level; written assurance that the length of the school day is comparable to that of the public school system; documentation that the school meets all state and local health and safety regulations; and a crisis plan.

### **Applies only to licensed private schools**

- Private schools (other than church-affiliated schools that apply for an exemption) must be licensed by the state's superintendent of public instruction. The application fee is \$300; a license renewal or a new license by reason of change of ownership is \$250.
- Schools applying for a license or a license renewal must file a surety bond of not less than \$5,000 or a certificate of deposit for the same amount.
- All schools seeking licenses must submit a catalog or brochure published or proposed to be published by the school; a list of the names, descriptions and levels of proposed courses; proposed schedules of classes; a description of measurable objectives for each grade and course and the procedures to be used in evaluating attainment of the objectives; an indication of the maximum number of students to be enrolled in each grade and course; an indication of the number of instructors to be assigned to each grade and course; the school's organizational structure; the assignments of licensed and non-licensed staff, including assignments to grades and courses; the cost of courses, including all fees; and copies of financial agreements between the school and parents.
- Accreditation by national or regional accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education may be accepted as evidence of compliance with state standards.
- The chief executive officer, trustees, directors, owners, administrators, supervisors, staff, instructors and agents of licensed schools must be of good reputation and character. Their education, experience and qualifications must reasonably ensure that students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the program of study.
- A private school license is good for two years. If a school has not had any complaints filed against it, it may renew its license one time without re-applying (in essence, a four-year license). A provisional license may be issued for a shorter period if the state Board of Education finds that the applicant has not fully complied with state requirements.
- The license is issued to the school's owner or governing body and is nontransferable. If there is a change in ownership, the new owner or governing body must apply for a new license within 10 days.

## TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

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

- Students seeking admission to private schools must furnish a birth certificate or another document suitable as proof of identity and, if applicable, records from the school that the student most recently attended.
- A certificate of immunization must be included in the student's academic or cumulative record and transferred as part of that record upon request.
- If a private school closes, it must file copies of all its academic records with the state superintendent. The records must include academic information customarily required by schools when considering students for transfer or advanced study and, as a separate document, the academic record of each former student. If it appears to the superintendent that the academic records of a school discontinuing its operations are in danger of being destroyed, secreted, mislaid or otherwise made unavailable, the superintendent may seek a court order permitting seizure of the records.
- On or before Oct. 15 of each year, or whenever there is a change in staff, private schools must submit a report to both parents and the state indicating the number of teachers and administrators employed for each grade level. The report to the state must also include the identification numbers of the staff's teachers' and administrators' licenses, or Social Security numbers for staff with alternative credentials.

### **Applies only to unlicensed schools**

- Before a student enrolls in an unlicensed school, parents must sign a form acknowledging the school is unlicensed.

### **Applies only to licensed private schools**

- To establish reasonable financial stability, license and renewal applicants must submit a proposed budget showing estimated revenues and expenditures for each of the two years of operation authorized by the license, as well as documentation of sound accounting procedures.
- Licensed private schools must provide all interested persons with a catalog or brochure containing information describing the grades or programs offered; program objectives; length of school year or program; schedule of tuition, fees and all other charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of study; cancellation and refund policies; other material facts that are reasonably likely to affect the decision to enroll in the school; and other disclosures specified by the state superintendent or defined in the regulations of the state Board of Education. This information is provided to parents or prospective pupils before enrollment.
- All costs charged by a licensed private school, including those for instruction, transportation, food, and activities, must be identified separately. The purpose of each charge must be described.
- Licensed private schools must maintain a fair and equitable cancellation and refund policy.
- Licensed private schools must maintain adequate records of each student's attendance, grades, progress and immunization and must furnish reports as required by the superintendent. Records must be maintained in a safe, secure place reasonably protected from fire and misuse and from access by unauthorized people.
- If a licensed private school closes, its owners or administrators must submit all records, including academic records and those pertinent to the resolution of financial encumbrances and indebtedness.
- Licensed private schools may not engage in advertising, sales, collection, credit or other practices of any type that are false, deceptive, misleading or unfair.
- Each licensed private school must be inspected at least once every two years to ensure that the school is operated in accordance with the provisions of all laws, regulations and

ordinances relating to the health and safety of persons on the premises and is maintaining the records required by the regulations of the board.

- Licensed private schools must secure the approval of the state Department of Education before initiating any change in their nature or purpose. Failure to notify the department of such a change may result in the revocation of the license.

## CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

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

- The quality and content of each course of instruction, training or study must reasonably and adequately achieve the stated objective for which the course or program is offered.
- Private schools must have adequate space, equipment, instructional materials and personnel to provide education of good quality.
- Private schools must conduct instruction in the subjects required by law, either under the regular state courses of study prescribed by the state Board of Education or under courses of study prepared by the private schools and approved by the state Board of Education.
- All private schools must give instruction in the essentials of the U.S. and Nevada constitutions, including the origin and history of these constitutions, and in the study of, and devotion to, American institutions and ideals. Teachers providing this instruction must show satisfactory evidence of adequate knowledge of the origin, history, provisions and principles of these constitutions by examination or credentials showing college, university or normal school study.

### **Applies only to licensed private schools**

- Each licensed private school must be large enough so that each student is provided with at least 30 square feet of usable instructional space; kindergarten students are provided with at least 35 square feet of usable instructional space; and vocational courses or other programs that concentrate on a nonacademic activity are provided with at least 50 square feet of usable instructional space per student.
- Each licensed private school must describe the facilities and equipment available for physical education and recreation and how the measurable objectives of a course in physical education will be met.
- Each licensed private school must describe the materials in its library and describe the other facilities and services available for instruction, research and study.
- Each licensed private school must describe the available audiovisual and instructional equipment, such as charts and maps, blackboards, tagboards, machines and models. All instructional material provided must be consistent with the measurable objectives for each grade and course.
- Each licensed private school must list textbooks and supplementary materials to be used for each course. Instructional material must be consistent with the measurable objectives for each grade and course and must be made available in sufficient amounts to accommodate the number of students projected for enrollment. Basic textbooks and appropriate supplementary materials must be made available to all students.
- Each licensed private school must indicate the ratio of students to instructors. A minimum of one full-time instructor is required for every 35 students if the school enrolls more than 35 students. If the school enrolls fewer than 30 students and offers at least three grades, the ratio of students to instructors must be no more than 15 to one. In any event, the ratio of students to instructors must not exceed 35 to one if the school has a single grade.
- A full-time administrator must be employed for each licensed private school that enrolls 150 or more students or employs six or more full-time instructors. A full-time administrator

must hold an administrator's license issued by the state Department of Education or by another state .

- An instructor must hold a teacher's license that is appropriate for the teacher's assignment issued by the state Department of Education or by another state, or hold approved alternative credentials.
- Licensed private schools must provide a school calendar showing holidays, beginning and ending dates of terms and other important dates for each of the two years under the term of the license. The school year must include at least 180 school days.
- Licensed private schools must have policies regarding transferring credits both into and out of the school.
- Licensed private schools must have policies regarding absences, tardiness and unsatisfactory attendance, procedures used to maintain and report attendance and standards of progress required of students, including the grading system, methods of evaluation and conditions for probation, dismissal and re-entrance.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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

- All private schools must obey all health and safety regulations.
- All students must submit to their schools a certificate from a licensed doctor, nurse or a designee stating that the student has been immunized and has received proper boosters for that immunization. Students may be excused from this requirement for religious or medical reasons; private schools may not refuse to enroll a student because he or she has exercised this exemption.
- Whenever the state Board of Health or a local board of health determines that there is a dangerous contagious disease in a private school attended by a student who has not been immunized, the school must notify the local health officer and require the student to either be immunized or remain outside the school.
- Private schools must conduct drills at least twice in each month during the school year to instruct students in the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire or other emergency. No more than three of these drills may include instruction in the appropriate procedures to be followed in the event of a chemical explosion, related emergencies and other natural disasters. In all cities or towns that have regularly organized fire departments, the drills must be conducted under the supervision of the chief of the local fire department.
- All private school buses are subject to inspection at all times by the state Department of Motor Vehicles, which must report any violations discovered to the private school. If the school fails to take appropriate action within 10 days, the head of the school is guilty of a misdemeanor.

### **Applies only to licensed private schools**

- Each licensed private school must submit documents certifying that its facilities have been inspected and meet the requirements of building codes, codes for the prevention of fire and codes for safety, health and sanitation before its license is issued or renewed.
- Each licensed private school must submit documents certifying that any vehicle for the transportation of pupils has been inspected by the Department of Motor Vehicles for its condition, equipment and identification.
- Each teacher or employee of a licensed private school who does not have a state teacher's or administrator's license must undergo a criminal background check.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Upon a request from parents, local school boards must authorize private school students to participate in classes not available at their private schools or to participate in extracurricular activities other than sports at public schools within the school district, provided there is space and the student is qualified to participate. The district need not provide transportation.
- Meals and food products sold to students or teachers by schools, student organizations and parent-teacher associations are tax exempt.



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.