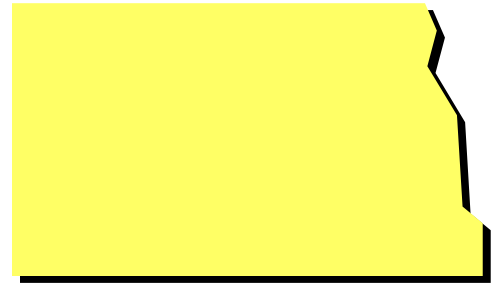


NORTH DAKOTA



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- Each public and private school must be accredited and approved by the superintendent of public instruction.
- Each classroom teacher must teach only in his or her licensed subjects.
- Private schools are approved automatically if they have fewer than 50 students, meet all safety and health regulations, match the length of school year and the curriculum of public schools, employ at least one licensed teacher per 25 students, have average test scores above the national average and are governed by a board on which parents are represented. If telecommunications or other electronic means are used to deliver curricular programs, the programs must be prepared by individuals holding at least baccalaureate degrees and delivered in the presence of an individual who holds a teaching license or who meets or exceeds the average cutoff scores of states that have normed the national teacher's examination.
- Required standards and criteria for accreditation are those that must be reviewed annually. Optional standards and criteria are those that have been assigned numerical point values and are reviewed on a two-year cycle.. A school must satisfy 85 percent of the total points and at least 50 percent of the point values assigned in each section. An example of a required element is that all teachers and administrators must be certified. Optional elements include things such as offering a student handbook, using standardized tests and having a policy for professional development.
- A school that is cited for a violation on required accreditation criteria must be warned. Citations for required standards and criteria must be removed by the end of March in the following school year or the school loses accreditation.
- Superintendents and principals of private schools must have appropriate state credentials, based on the size of the school.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Each private school must submit professional personnel forms every year and reports on optional standards and criteria in conjunction with an accreditation report every two years.
- All private schools must use a student's legal surname in their record keeping.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must offer all subjects required by law: four units of English language arts; four units of mathematics; four units of science; four units of social studies, including one of world history and one of U.S. history; a half unit of health; a half unit of physical

education; two units of fine arts, at least one of which must be music; two units of the same foreign language; and two units of career and technical education.

- Private schools must have a school year at least as long as that of the public schools.
- Private schools must require at least the same number of credit hours in each subject as required by the public schools.
- Private schools must have written plans for curriculum assessment, development, implementation and evaluation. The plan must include a description of procedures, activities and timeline for implementation. A copy of the plan must be kept on file for review.
- Private schools must follow state guidelines regarding class size and teacher-student ratio. In secondary, middle and junior high schools, class size generally may not exceed 30 students. Three percent of the classes taught in a school unit may exceed 30 students, to a maximum of 34 students per class. Science and vocational education classes must not exceed the capacity of the learning stations provided. Instrumental and vocal music classes are exempt from the class size standard. In elementary schools, the maximum classroom enrollment is as follows (if each teacher teaches only one grade level): for kindergarten through grade three, the limit is 25 students and in grades four through eight, the limit is 30 students. If a teacher teaches two grade levels, in kindergarten through grade three, the limit per class is 20 students and in grades four through eight, 25 students. If a teacher teaches three grade levels, in kindergarten through grade eight the limit is 15 students. If a teacher teaches four grade levels, in kindergarten through grade eight, the limit is 10 students.
- Teachers' schedules must include preparation time during the school day.
- Private schools must follow the state plan for use of nationally normed standardized testing. A nationally norm-referenced standardized achievement test must be administered at any two grade levels from grade nine to grade 12, or as established by the state plan for testing. Nationally norm-referenced standardized group achievement and aptitude tests must be administered in grade seven or eight, or both, and they must be administered at the same grade level to all students. Nationally norm-referenced standardized achievement and aptitude tests must be administered to two grade levels each year in any of the elementary grades one through six at the same grade level to all students. A standardized readiness test must be administered in either kindergarten or grade one, whichever is the initial point of formal education.
- Each school must maintain a library appropriate to its size and with qualified library personnel (qualifications vary with school size).

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- Each school must provide a student personnel-services program that ensures students' needs are being met in counseling and guidance services, social and psychological services and health services.
- Private schools must meet all local and state health, fire and safety laws, including immunization.

MISCELLANEOUS

Applies to all private schools

- If a school district provides transportation to its students, the board may provide transportation to private school students, provided they are transported only along the bus route established for the public school students, only on the days and at the times

- that the public school students are transported, and legal passenger capacity of each bus is not exceeded.
- Gross receipts from the sale of textbooks to private school students and the sale of textbooks, yearbooks, school supplies and food supplies to non-profit private schools are exempt from state sales tax.



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.