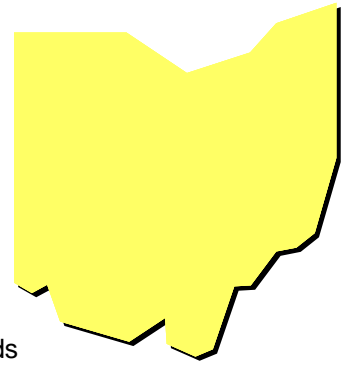


# OHIO

---



## ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

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

- Private schools that choose not to seek a state charter must provide annual notification to parents certifying compliance with minimum standards set by the state for private schools, and must send a copy of the certification to the state Department of Education.

### **Applies only to chartered private schools**

- A chartered private school must ensure that its students receive a general education of high quality and must comply with state Operating Standards for Ohio Schools.
- A chartered private school must be accredited by an association whose standards have been reviewed by the state superintendent's Advisory Committee on Chartered Nonpublic Schools and approved by the state Board of Education or demonstrate compliance with operating standards directly to the Ohio Department of Education.
- Chartered private schools may consider religious affiliation in hiring and employment decisions to the extent permitted by law.

## TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

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

- To be enrolled, students must present to the private school any records given to the student by the school he or she most recently attended and a birth certificate or other acceptable proof of identity.
- Within 24 hours of a student's enrollment, the school must request the student's official records from the school the student most recently attended. If the school indicates that it has no record of the student's attendance, the records are not received within 14 days or the enrolling student does not present a birth certificate or comparable identification, the school must notify local law enforcement that the student may be a missing child.
- Private schools must submit annual reports to the state Board of Education containing such facts as the board requires.
- Private schools must report to the local board of education the names, addresses and ages of all students under age 18 attending, along with any other facts the board requires to facilitate the enforcement of compulsory education laws and laws concerning the employment of minors. The report must be made within the first two weeks of the beginning of each school year and must be updated (if necessary) within the first week of each subsequent month of the school year.
- Any determination made under the state's criteria and procedures that may adversely affect a private school can be appealed to the state Board of Education.

### **Applies only to chartered private schools**

- The state may request records pertaining to individual students from a chartered private school if the request is made as part of an investigation into the student's health and well-being. If the school believes the request is unreasonable or is being made for purposes other than the protection of the child, it may file a motion for a hearing in court before releasing the documents.
- The superintendent of public instruction must annually reimburse each chartered private school for costs incurred by the school in preparing, maintaining and filing mandated

reports, forms and records, and in providing such other administrative and clerical services that are not an integral part of the teaching process and are required by state or local laws and rules. Private schools operating without a charter are not entitled to administrative cost reimbursement.

## CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

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

- The state Board of Education prescribes minimum standards to be applied to all private schools for the purpose of requiring a general education of high quality. In formulating and administering these standards, the board is required to consider the particular needs, methods and objectives of the schools, provided they do not conflict with the provision of a general education of a high quality and provided that regular procedures are followed for promotion from grade to grade of students who have met the prescribed educational requirements.
- Private school hours and school years must be equivalent to those required of students in the local public schools.
- Private school teachers and administrators must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree or the equivalent.
- In non-chartered private schools, teachers and administrators may be certified if they have received a diploma from a Bible college or institute.
- People applying for a certificate to teach in chartered private schools must pay a nominal fee.

### **Applies only to chartered private schools**

- Chartered private schools may participate in state standardized testing by administering any test prescribed by state law or by using a test specified by the school's chief academic officer. The specification of an alternative test must be made in writing to the superintendent of public instruction before Aug. 1 and must include a pledge that the school will administer the test in the same manner as required of public schools. Private schools may exempt students of limited English proficiency from taking these tests, but may not prohibit them from doing so.
- Chartered private schools may not grant a high school diploma to any person unless that person has attained minimum scores on the Ohio Graduation Test under the state standards.
- Teachers and administrators in chartered private schools must have state licensure or certification.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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

- No institution intended to house or care for people suffering from communicable disease may be established within 2,000 feet of any private school or school land used for recreational purposes in connection with school activities.
- Private schools must instruct and train students by means of drills or rapid dismissals at least once a month while in operation, so that students may leave the building in the shortest possible time without confusion in a sudden emergency. No person shall willfully neglect to keep the doors and exits of such building unlocked during school hours. The fire marshal may order the immediate installation of necessary fire gongs or signals in such schools.
- Private schools must instruct students in safety procedures for a tornado alert or warning. Schools must designate, in accordance with standards prescribed by the fire marshal,

appropriate locations to be used to shelter students in case of a tornado, tornado alert- or warning.

- The fire marshal must annually inspect all private schools for fire safety hazards.
- Private school employees may, within the scope of their job authority, use such force and restraint as is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain weapons or other dangerous objects possessed by students, for self-defense or for the protection of persons or property.
- The state may provide speech and hearing diagnostic services; therapeutic psychological speech and hearing services; physician, nursing, dental and optometric services; and diagnostic psychological services to private school students. These services must be provided in the private school attended by the student receiving the service.

**Applies only to chartered private schools**

- Chartered private schools must request a state and federal criminal records check for any applicant who has applied for employment in any position responsible for the care, custody or control of a child. If an applicant fails the check or refuses to provide the required information, the school may not hire that person.

## MISCELLANEOUS

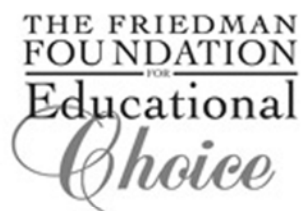
**Applies to all private schools**

- Where private school students in grades kindergarten through eight live more than two miles from their schools, the local school district must provide transportation. School districts are not required to transport students more than 30 minutes of travel time from the public school building to which the students would be assigned if attending public schools. The 30 minute travel time is timed on a school bus during the time of the school day that the bus would be transporting students. Where it is impractical to transport a student by bus, a district may offer payment in lieu of providing transportation. Districts may provide transportation for students in grades nine through 12, but are not required to do so.
- All private schools must display the U.S. flag, not less than five feet in length, over, near or within all schoolhouses during each day they are in session.
- Except as otherwise provided by the governing authority of the school, a private school teacher or administrator may inflict reasonable corporal punishment upon a student whenever the punishment is reasonably necessary to preserve discipline.
- The state may purchase and loan to private school students secular textbooks or electronic textbooks approved by the superintendent of public instruction for use in public schools.
- The state may provide guidance and counseling services or remedial services to private school students. Services may be provided in public schools, private schools, public centers or mobile units. If the services are provided in public schools or public centers, transportation to and from the facilities must be provided by the local school district.
- School districts may loan media and instructional equipment purchased by the state to private schools.
- Food sold in private school cafeterias is tax free.
- Students attending non-chartered private schools are not entitled to auxiliary services, "nonpublic mandated administrative cost reimbursement," or student transportation services funding from the state.

**Applies only to chartered private schools**

- The state Department of Education must consult with the employees of chartered private schools who confer with parents of deaf or hard-of-hearing students about the students'

education. The department also must consult with chartered private schools that use interpreters in classrooms and with any other interested chartered private schools about how to obtain the best interpreters and how interpreters can improve their skills.



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.