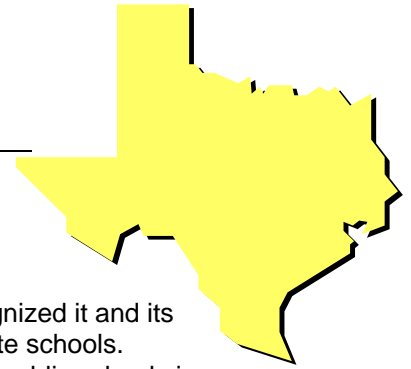


TEXAS



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all accredited schools

- The Texas Private School Accreditation Commission serves in an advisory capacity. The state commissioner of education has recognized it and its affiliated associations for purposes of accreditation of Texas private schools.
- The state expects accredited private schools to be comparable to public schools in their operations, curriculum, staffing and instruction.
- Private schools seeking accreditation must have adequate financial resources; must demonstrate professional management of their resources; must provide a clearly stated philosophy with objectives that are adequate to implement the philosophy; and must have a physical plant and facilities adequate to support the program.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all accredited schools

- Professional staff members in accredited private schools must hold relevant college degrees and be qualified by preparation or experience for the positions they hold and the work to which they are assigned.
- A school seeking accreditation must conduct a self-study, a qualitative assessment of its strengths and limitations, including achievement of objectives and compliance with state Board of Education rules. A representative portion of the school's governing body, administrative staff, teaching faculty, students and other appropriate constituencies must participate in the self-study.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Each private school must administer a nationally normed achievement test. Accrediting agencies must approve the tests used in schools they accredit.
- Private schools must have school days and school years that equivalent in terms of classroom hours those of the public schools.
- Private school curricula must include the study of good citizenship.

Applies to all accredited schools

- Accredited private elementary schools must have a well-balanced curriculum and instructional time requirements. Such schools must maintain student academic records and achievement levels required for promotion comparable to those in public schools.
- Accredited private secondary schools must have appropriate curricula, including sequencing of courses for which graduation credit may be sought from the state. They must maintain student academic records and achievement levels necessary for graduation comparable to those required in public schools.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must comply with applicable state, county and municipal health, fire, safety and sanitation codes.

- Private schools must notify local authorities if they suspect or have evidence of crimes committed on campus. The principal must provide the name and address of each student suspected to be involved.
- Students enrolling in private schools must be immunized; present an affidavit signed by a physician stating that the student does not require or would be harmed by immunization; or sign an affidavit refusing immunization for reasons of conscience. A person who has not been immunized may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.
- Private schools must report a student who is suspected of having a reportable disease, as defined by state regulations. The state Board of Education establishes procedures to determine whether a student should be reported and whether to exclude students from school pending appropriate medical diagnosis and recovery.
- Private schools may obtain from any law enforcement or criminal justice agency all criminal history record information relating to job applicants or volunteers.
- A private school must promptly notify the state Board for Educator Certification in writing if it obtains or has knowledge of information showing that an applicant for or holder of an educational certificate has a criminal history.
- A private school may discharge an employee if it obtains information of the employee's conviction of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude that the employee did not disclose to the state Board for Educator Certification.
- It is illegal to possess an open container or consume an alcoholic beverage on a public street, public alley or public sidewalk within 1,000 feet of the property line of a private school.



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.