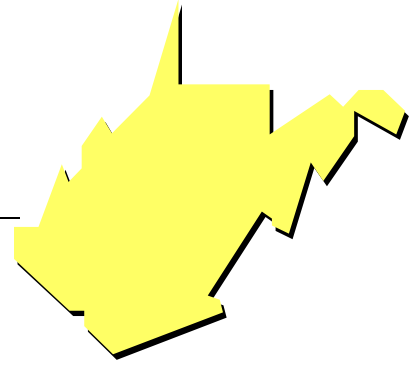


WEST VIRGINIA



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- A private school may seek approval to operate from the local Board of Education, but it is not required.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies only to non-approved private schools

- Any new private school that does not seek approval from the local Board of Education must send to the state superintendent of schools a notice of intent to operate, the name and address of the school and the name of the school's chief administrator.
- Each private school must maintain annual attendance and disease immunization records for each student enrolled and regularly attending classes. The attendance records must be made available to parents. Upon the request of the county superintendent of schools, a private school or its parents' organization must furnish to the county board of education a list of the names and addresses of all students enrolled in the school between the ages of seven and 16.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- The basic language of instruction in private schools must be English.
- Private schools must have courses of study similar to those required for the public schools, including health.
- The state Board of Education establishes minimum standards for all driver education courses.
- The state Board of Education prescribes a course of study in fire prevention for use in all public and private schools that deals with the protection of lives and property against loss or damage as a result of preventable fires.
- All private schools must require, prior to the completion of the eighth grade, at least a year of instruction in the history of West Virginia. Schools must require regular courses of instruction before the completion of the 12th grade in the history of the United States, civics, the U.S. Constitution and the government of West Virginia for the purpose of teaching, fostering and perpetuating the ideals, principles and spirit of political and economic democracy in America and increasing the knowledge of the organization and machinery of the government of the United States and of West Virginia.

Applies only to non-approved private schools

- Each year, private schools choosing not to seek approval must administer to every student between the ages of seven and 16 either the comprehensive test of basic skills, the California achievement test, the Stanford achievement test or the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills tests of achievement and proficiency in the subjects of English, grammar, reading, social studies, science and mathematics. If a school's composite test results for any single year for English, grammar, reading, social studies, science and mathematics fall below the 40th percentile, the school must initiate a remedial program to foster achievement. If after two consecutive calendar years the school's composite test results

are not above the 40th percentile, attendance at the school will no longer satisfy the compulsory school attendance requirement until the percentile requirements are met. The state superintendent may waive the testing requirement for religious schools if the superintendent determines that a court of law has held that the requirement would violate a provision of the state or federal constitution.

- Each non-approved private school must observe a minimum instructional term of 180 days with an average of five hours of instruction a day.

Applies only to approved private schools

- Approved private schools must be open for a time equal to the local public schools.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- County boards of education may provide, upon request, diagnostic health tests to all students entering private school.
- The state fire marshal inspects all structures and facilities to determine whether they are in compliance with the state fire code.
- Private schools must cooperate with a law-enforcement agency that is investigating a missing child report and must furnish any information, including confidential information, that will assist the law-enforcement agency in completing the investigation.

Applies only to non-approved private schools

- Approved private schools are subject to reasonable fire, health and safety inspections by state, county and municipal authorities as required by law and are required to comply with the West Virginia school bus safety regulations.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The sale of textbooks, tangible personal property and services for non-profit private schools, and food bought for and sold to students, are exempt from sales taxes.
- Food purchased or sold by a private school, school-sponsored student organization or school-sponsored parent-teacher association to students enrolled in the school or to employees of the school during normal school hours is exempt for state sales tax, but sales of food made to the general public are not 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.