

# WYOMING

---

## ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

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

- All non-religious private schools must be licensed by the state. Religious schools may claim an exemption from licensing.
- Recruiters for private schools must be licensed by the state.

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

- Licenses must be renewed each year.
- The state Board of Education establishes minimum standards for licensed schools. Prior to the issuing of the license, and at least once every three years thereafter, the state Department of Education conducts an on-site inspection. The school pays the costs of the inspection. Written findings are provided to the board and the school. The department also may provide for random, unannounced on-site visitations at designated office locations for enforcement.
- Before any school is issued a license, it must submit a performance bond or other form of security prescribed by the state Department of Education. Church-based private schools are exempt from this requirement.
- Licensed private schools may claim or advertise to prospective or enrolled students that they are accredited only if the accrediting association is approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

## TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

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

- Private schools must ensure the transfer of all pertinent educational records to a school that requests them for the admission or re-admission of a student.
- Private schools must provide an annual report to the state Board of Education including:
  - Dropout rates for grades nine through 12
  - School averages for standard achievement tests given to all students or classes within the school
  - The number of hours of classroom instruction during the school year by grade level
  - The school's recommended course of study for college bound students and the percentage of students who have successfully completed the course of study
  - The types of and number of participants in parent and community involvement programs
  - The number of parental visits
  - The number of students involved in extracurricular activities and events
  - The percentage of the school's budget spent on instruction, instructional support, general support and community support
  - School goals for the year
  - A description of efforts being made to reform, restructure and improve the educational quality and equity in the school, including teacher recommendations
  - Any other information the school believes relevant to the parents' understanding of the performance of the school.
- Private schools must keep documented proof of immunization as an integral part of each student's school record.

## CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

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

- Private schools must be open for the same length of time the local public schools are open. Each school district must operate for a minimum of 175 days each school year unless an alternative schedule has been approved by the state Board of Education.
- All teachers and administrators in licensed private schools must be certified by the state. If any faculty, staff member or administrator currently employed does not qualify for certification or endorsement by the Professional Teaching Standards Board, the private school must notify all parents and the public.
- All students in licensed private schools must meet the student performance standards at the level set by the school in language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, fine arts and performing arts, physical education, health and safety, humanities, career options, foreign cultures, including language, and applied technology.
- All licensed private schools must give instruction in the essentials of the U.S. and the Wyoming constitutions, including the study of and devotion to American institutions and ideals.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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

- Private schools must comply with all applicable safety and health statutes.
- Transportation used for students as part of a private school educational program must comply with state standards.
- Private schools must be covered by an Emergency Operating Plan.
- Students enrolling in private schools must provide written proof of immunization within 30 days of enrolling. Waivers for immunization may be granted for health or religious objections.
- During an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease, as determined by state or county health authorities, students for whom an immunization waiver has been issued and who are not immunized against the disease must be excluded from school attendance for a period of time determined by the health authorities.
- Private schools must hold a fire drill at least once a month. Safety drills may be used in lieu of fire drills if approved by and coordinated with the local fire department, provided that fire drills are conducted at each school at least four times a year and the school's fire alarm is tested at each fire or safety drill. A safety drill includes any organized response to a potential threat to the health and safety of the student population. In localities where a paid fire department is maintained, a fire department member must be requested to be in attendance at each fire or safety drill for the purpose of instruction and constructive criticism.



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.