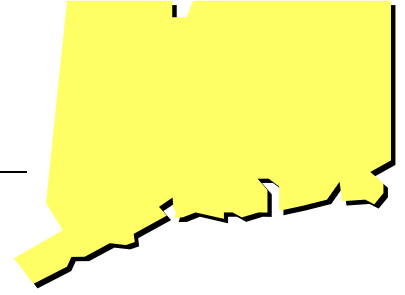


CONNECTICUT



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools in Connecticut may register with the state or seek state approval through accreditation from a state-approved accrediting agency. Both options are voluntary.
- A school may seek approval from the state Board of Education by attaining accreditation with one of the state-approved accrediting agencies. The school seeking approval also must submit current certificates of approval by fire and health authorities to the State Department of Education.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must file attendance reports with the state commissioner of education at times and in forms prescribed by the commissioner.
- Private schools must make any reports required by local boards of education, except that no report concerning finances may be required.
- A child age five to 18 who has four unexcused absences in any month or 10 unexcused absences in any school year is considered truant.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- The medium of instruction and administration in all private elementary schools must be English, but instruction may be given in another language to any student who experiences difficulty reading and understanding English. A private school may, with the approval of the state Board of Education, establish a program of bilingual education.
- All private schools must provide a program of U.S. history, including instruction in U.S. government at the local, state and national levels, and in the duties, responsibilities and rights of U.S. citizenship. No student may be graduated who has not been found to be familiar with these subjects.
- Private school teachers are eligible to participate in programs of professional development offered by the state Department of Education in cooperation with regional education service centers. Participation fees are charged.
- Private schools may participate in programs and services offered by the regional education service centers. The private schools pay a prorated share of the costs of any program or service.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- Local superintendents of schools and the supervisory agent of each private school must develop and implement policies for the reporting of all complaints relating to school transportation safety and must maintain a written record of all such complaints. Each superintendent and each private school supervisory agent must provide to the state commissioner of motor vehicles, within 30 days of the end of each school year, a copy of the written record of complaints received in the previous year.
- The local superintendent of schools and the supervisory agent of the private school must make a written report to the state commissioner of motor vehicles of the circumstances of

any accident involving a motor vehicle and any pedestrian who is a student that occurs at or in the immediate vicinity of a designated school bus stop within 10 days of the accident.

- Students in private schools must be immunized. Exemptions are made for religious objections or medical reasons. If parents are unable to pay for immunizations, the expense shall be paid by the town upon the recommendation of the local board of education.
- A school official at a private school may administer medicine to a student in accordance with a doctor's orders and parental permission.
- Information related to drug or alcohol abuse by a student is privileged unless a crime has occurred or there is intent by a student to commit a crime. In such cases, school faculty members dealing with the student are required to report the situation to their superiors and local law enforcement.
- All private schools must be open to inspection by the fire marshal.
- All eye protection used in private schools is subject to regulation by the state Board of Education.
- Each town or regional school district that provides health services for public school students must provide the same services for private school students, if a majority of the students attending the school are residents of Connecticut. "Health services" include the services of a school physician, school nurse or dental hygienist.
- Private schools may require criminal background checks for employees or job applicants.
- Each private school must provide sufficient number of suitable flush toilets and hand-washing facilities "that can be readily supervised by staff or be in separate rooms for boys and girls."
- All schools, public and private, must provide toilet accommodations, water supply, drinking cups, washing facilities, heating, light and ventilation and must maintain them in sanitary condition.
- A professional employee shall not be required to disclose any information acquired through a professional communication with a student when the information concerns alcohol or drug abuse or any alcoholic or drug problem of the student. But if the employee obtains physical evidence from a student indicating that a crime has been or is being committed by the student, the employee is required to turn the evidence over to school administrators or law enforcement officials within two school days.
- Private schools with students in grades eight or lower may not apply lawn care pesticides on school grounds, except on playing fields and playgrounds pursuant to an integrated pest management plan that is consistent with the model pest control management plan developed by the commissioner of environmental protection. An emergency pesticide application may be made to eliminate a threat human health as determined by the local health director, the commissioner of public health or the commissioner of environmental protection.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Municipalities and school districts must provide private school students the same kind of transportation services provided for public school students, if a majority of the students attending the private school are residents of Connecticut.
- A local or regional board of education may provide transportation outside the school district where a student resides if the student attends a non-profit private school that is approved by the state Board of Education and located in Connecticut.
- Municipalities may lend money to private schools to build or renovate physical facilities used exclusively for educational purposes.
- A local and regional board of education may, at the request of any student residing in and attending a private school in the district, arrange for a loan of textbooks in use in the

public schools to the pupil, free of charge, provided the loan of a textbook is requested for at least a semester.



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.