

MARYLAND



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- Non-religious private schools must have a certificate of approval from the state. Religious private schools may apply for approval but are not required to do so.
- Religious private schools (run by “bona fide church organizations”) do not need a certificate of approval to operate, but they are required to file a registration with the state. Schools without a certificate of approval may not receive state funds. However, religious private schools without a certificate of approval may receive state funds for eligible students in the food-service program who are enrolled in nursery school through eighth grade.
- Private schools have the right to judicial review of any decision of the state Board of Education.

Applies only to approved private schools

- Schools applying for a certificate of approval must supply its name, address, name of the owners or operators, grade levels offered and other information. The school must notify the state Board of Education within 60 days if any of this information changes.
- The state Board of Education must issue a certificate of approval to a private school if it finds that the facilities, conditions of entrance and scholarship, and educational qualifications and standards are adequate for the purpose of the institution and the certificates or diplomas granted. The board may not issue a certificate of approval to an institution that discriminates based on race, color or national origin.
- Private schools that are denied approval will receive a written explanation. The school has 30 days to correct deficiencies. If the school wants to challenge the board’s decision, it may, within 20 days of receiving the denial, request a hearing before the board. The board must hold a hearing within 60 days of receiving the request to consider the appeal.
- Schools that persistently fail to meet all state requirements may have their names published in newspapers or on the Internet.
- The state Board of Education may shut down private schools that fail to receive state approval. The order takes effect 15 days after it is issued.
- A person or legal authority that holds a certificate of approval for one school but is under sanction for failing to comply with state regulations may not apply for another certificate of approval to operate another school.
- Schools receiving a certificate of approval must display it in a “conspicuous place” on the premises.
- Approved private schools must have a written statement of purpose and a list of all faculty credentials. They must supply a copy of these to parents and enrolled students.
- Approved private schools must have an administrative head and teachers who possess college degrees or equivalent credentials.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must be open to inspection by the state superintendent or his designee at reasonable times.

- Private schools must furnish an annual report certifying compliance with all state regulations and testifying that the school does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin.
- Private schools must maintain detailed documents for each student enrolled, including name, address, date of birth, parents' names and addresses and academic progress.
- Private schools are required to maintain student transcripts indefinitely. If a school closes, secondary school transcripts are transferred to the state Department of Education.
- Private schools must report to the county superintendent the name of each child who has been habitually truant without lawful excuse.

Applies only to approved private schools

- Each approved private school must have a written statement of its student-teacher ratio or average class size, which must be distributed annually to parents of enrolled and prospective students.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must maintain a record of daily attendance.
- Private schools must develop a written policy regarding admission to the school. The policy must be made available to prospective applicants.
- All public relations information issued by a private school must be accurate.

Applies only to approved private schools

- The educational program of an approved private school must operate consistently with its statement of purpose.
- Each approved private school must maintain a written curriculum of its educational program for English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies in each grade; all secondary courses given for credit; and any Montessori areas of instruction.
- Each approved private school must have a written calendar, have a regular school year of at least 170 days and designate three to five additional days (depending on local weather patterns) to make up for days missed during the year.
- Approved private schools must maintain adequate libraries.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must test all students' hearing and vision at scheduled times. Tests must be conducted by the county board or health department. Results must be filed in the permanent record of each student, given to parents of students who fail the screenings and reported to the county board or health department.
- Any private school that receives a notice of contaminated drinking water must notify parents of students within 10 days, detailing the nature of the contamination and how the school will address the problem.
- Private schools must report incidents of suspected child abuse or neglect to local authorities.
- Private schools must comply with state fire, health, zoning and safety regulations.
- An individual who has tuberculosis may not work in a private school.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Each local school system must provide or arrange for transportation during the regular school year for each child with a disability to a public or private schools.
- Property used by private education organizations is tax exempt, as long as the organization maintains non-profit status.



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.