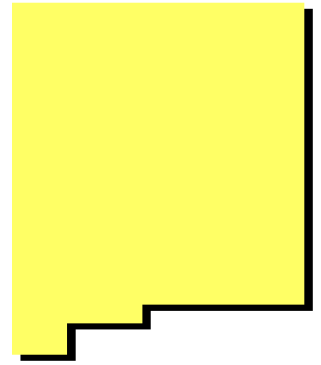


NEW MEXICO



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

- If they wish, private schools may apply for accreditation by the state. To apply, they must have been previously accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency approved by the state secretary of education and be recommended for state accreditation status by that accrediting agency (which must provide copies of pertinent evaluations). The secretary may grant or withhold accreditation.
- The state education department has the authority to monitor the operation of private schools seeking and/or holding state accreditation.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Private schools must provide parents with written notice by certified mail of a student's habitual truancy.
- Private schools must report submit reports on immunization status, fire drills, length of school day, compulsory school attendance and enforcement of attendance law.

Applies only to accredited private schools

- The state secretary of education must assess and evaluate all state institutions and those private schools that desire state accreditation and require periodic attendance reports from them.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies only to accredited private schools

- The state secretary of education is authorized to prescribe courses of instruction to be taught in state-accredited private schools. However, this authority has not been exercised.
- Students in accredited private high schools may not receive a high school diploma if they have not passed a state graduation examination in reading, English, mathematics, writing, science and social science.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- All students must be immunized, though students may file for an exemption for religious or medical reasons.
- Private schools must keep records of the immunization status of every child enrolled in or attending the school. These records must be kept current and made available to public health authorities. The school must report the name of any parent or guardian who neglects or refuses to permit his or her child to be immunized to the state health department.
- Private schools must conduct an emergency drill at least once a week during the first four weeks of the school year and at least once a month thereafter. Two drills during the year must be shelter-in-place (as opposed to evacuation) drills and one must be an evacuation drill, as directed by the state education department. The remainder of the drills must be fire drills.

- The fire marshal must prescribe reasonable rules, regulations and programs for teaching proper methods of fire prevention and control to all school children in the state, whether in public or private schools.

MISCELLANEOUS

Applies to all private schools

- All church property or educational institutions are tax 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.