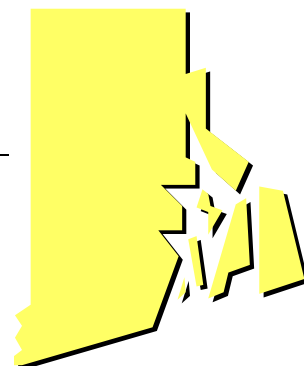


RHODE ISLAND



ACCREDITATION, LICENSING & APPROVAL

Applies to all private schools

- All private schools must be approved by the state Department of Education.
- The state's public registry shows each private school's location, name, officers, grades of instruction and common language used in teaching.

TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING

Applies to all private schools

- Attendance requirements must be the same as those in the public schools.
- Private schools must keep a register of the names of all students, their sex and age, names of parents and the time when each student enters and leaves the school and their daily attendance.
- Private schools must prepare any report required by the local school committee or the state Department of Education.
- Attendance registers must be provided to the local school committee, the superintendent of schools, truant officers and the state Department of Education.
- Each summer, private schools must report to the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education the number of students enrolled, average attendance, the number of teachers employed and any other facts of age, attendance and subjects of instruction that the board may require.
- Private schools must notify parents whenever students are absent without parental acknowledgement.
- Private schools that provide multiple kindergarten sessions must make every effort to notify parents in writing at least 30 days before the start of the school year which kindergarten session their child has been assigned.
- If a private school closes, provision must be made for continued access to student academic and attendance records. Records must be forwarded to the schools the students subsequently attend. Records of parochial schools may be retained in the office of the church's school system.

CURRICULUM & ACADEMICS

Applies to all private schools

- Private school instruction must be approved by the local school committee as substantially equivalent in content, method and hours to the instruction offered in public schools.
- Private school students are deemed as having acquired reasonable facility in speaking, reading and writing the English language only after passing an examination provided for by the local school committee.
- Private schools must teach reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, health, physical education, the history of the United States, the history of Rhode Island and the principles of American government thoroughly and efficiently, in the English language, substantially to the same extent as these subjects are taught in the public schools. This requirement does not deny the right to teach in any other language in addition to teaching in English.
- Private schools must adopt curricula that promote knowledge of the history of Rhode Island, representative government, the rights and duties of actively engaged citizenship

and the principles of democracy. Education in these subjects must be substantially equivalent to that required in public schools.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Applies to all private schools

- Students entering private schools must furnish evidence that they have been immunized. Alternatively, they must a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the student is not a fit subject for immunization for medical reasons or a certificate signed by a parent (or by the student if over 18) stating that immunization and/or testing for communicable diseases is contrary to that person's religious beliefs.
- All school buildings must conform to state and local safety, health and fire codes.
- Private schools with more than 25 students must instruct students by means of drills so that they can leave school buildings in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic in a sudden emergency. Schools must hold 15 drills or rapid dismissals during the school year, at least eight of which must be held during September, October and November. At least four drills or rapid dismissals must take place with one or more exits and stairways in the school building blocked off or not used. At least two of these obstructed drills must be held during September and October.
- Every private school student and teacher participating in any courses or laboratories where eye hazards are present must wear approved eye protective devices whenever participating.
- School bus monitors other than the bus driver are required for transportation of students in grades kindergarten through five.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The local school committee of any town or city must provide suitable transportation to and from school for private school students who reside far enough from their schools as to make their regular attendance otherwise impractical and for any student whose regular attendance would otherwise be impractical on account of physical disability or infirmity.



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.