



Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Alaska

Private Schools

There are more than 50 private schools across the state of Alaska serving 3.1% of all K-12 students. These private schools come in all shapes and forms, from religious schools to schools designed for children with special needs. The average tuition for private schools in Alaska is \$7,154 for elementary schools and \$6,881 for high schools.

Steps to Start a Private School

Incorporate

1. Select a name for your school. Retain this name throughout the duration of the school's operation.
2. Designate a chief administrative officer. Select a title, such as Director, Principal, Superintendent, etc.
3. Register as a corporation. This is usually a for-profit LLC. Register with your state's Division of Corporations.

Prepare Forms

1. Affidavit of Compliance - This form is required upon establishment of the school. The affidavit must be notarized. It will remain on file with the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED). This form verifies that the school maintains permanent records of immunization, physical examinations, standardized testing, and academic achievement, and courses taken for enrolled students. The Affidavit of Compliance is required only in the initial year of the school. ([AS 14.45.130](#))
2. Corporal Punishment Policy – This report needs to be filed with DEED only once. Revisions are included in the Enrollment Report. Each private school shall adopt a written policy regarding the use of corporal punishment. ([4 AAC 42.200](#))
3. Private, Religious or Other Private Schools Enrollment Report - An annual report of the number of students enrolled in each grade must be submitted to DEED by October 15 of each school year.
4. School Calendar - This is also an annual report. Under [AS 14.45.110](#) a school year is set at a minimum of 180 days. Calendars may be flexible to fit the situation of the school, as

long as the school is in operation for the required 180 days. You may set your school year for longer than 180 days if you wish.

5. Enrollment Reporting Form For School District - [AS 14.45.110](#) requires the parent or guardian of a child of compulsory school age enrolled in a religious or other private school to file this form annually with the superintendent of the school district in which the child resides. This form is required for each private school child. The form shall be signed by the parent or guardian and the Chief Administrative Officer. Do not send this form to the Department of Education & Early Development. It is to be filed only with the local school district superintendent.
6. Immunization Report - These records are not required to be submitted to DEED. Registration of immunization records are to be submitted annually by November 15, to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). These records are also required to be on file at the school site. The forms are not part of the application packet and can be ordered by contacting the Department of Health and Social Services at the above address. After the initial year of registering, DHSS will automatically send you forms for the next year.
7. Things to consider
 - a. Accreditation: is optional. OptimaEd has been accredited by Cognia.
 - b. Teacher Certification: Is required for non-exempt private schools, but not required for exempt private schools..
 - c. Registration: Is not required.
 - d. Licensing: Business licensing may be required by local government.
 - e. Approval: Is not required.
 - f. Length of School Year and Days: 180 days. See statutes
 - g. Curriculum: Minimal requirements.
 - h. State Testing: shall administer a nationally standardized test to all students enrolled in grades four, six, and eight at least once each year.
 - i. Health and Safety Requirements: Immunization is required. May have to present a certification of school-entry health examination.
 - j. Nursing and Health: Health screening may be required.

Submit Forms

Send the following information in one packet to the office indicated. **The deadline for submission of a complete packet to DEED is October 15.** If you are starting your private school in the middle of the school year, submit the forms as soon as possible.

FORMS PACKET #1:

1. Affidavit of Compliance
2. Corporal Punishment Policy
3. Exempt, Religious & Other Private Schools Enrollment form
4. School Calendar

SEND FORMS PACKET #1 TO:

Department of Education & Early Development Student Learning
Attn: Tim Workman
801 West 10th St., Suite 200
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
(907) 465-8579

FORMS Packet #2:

1. Affidavit of Compliance
2. Immunization Report

SEND FORMS PACKET #2 TO:

Superintendent of your local school district.

(See [Alaska Public School Superintendents education.alaska.gov/DOE_Rolodex/QSuperintendents_1.cfm](http://education.alaska.gov/DOE_Rolodex/QSuperintendents_1.cfm))

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health
Section of Epidemiology
P.O. Box 240249
Anchorage, AK 99524-0249
(907) 269-8000

After Opening

Teacher Certification:

Teacher certification is required for non-exempt private schools, but not required for exempt private schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.100](#).

Standardized Testing:

A religious or private school shall administer a nationally standardized test to all students enrolled in grades four, six, and eight at least once each year. ([AS 14.45.120](#)). Keep results of the test on file in the school. For further information contact:

Alaska Private Home Education Association
P.O. Box 141764
Anchorage, AK 99514
Phone (907) 566-3450
aphea.org

Or you may conduct a Web search for the many nationally standardized test options.

Academic Achievement:

A religious or private school shall maintain student grades and other information that records student academic achievement. ([AS 14.45.130](#))

Private School Statutes & Rules

The Education Freedom Foundation has relied on the [U.S. Department of Education's State Regulation of Private and Home Schools Map](#) for relevant statutes. Over time, the state pages on this map have been updated since their initial creation. In some cases, states have changed their laws without these updates being reflected on the map. Given the various methods each state uses to publicize changes to its laws, the most recent information for the Start-A-School project was often obtained directly from the U.S. Department of Education website. Users are encouraged to verify any information before making decisions based on it.

Accreditation, Registration, Licensing, and Approval

- Accreditation is optional.
 - The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has a duty to accredit private schools that request accreditation and meet accreditation standards as prescribed by regulation. (In practice, Alaska does not accredit schools and has not adopted accreditation regulations, but has an informal agreement with the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges to provide accreditation to public and private schools that request accreditation.) [Alaska Stat. §14.07.020\(10\)](#).
- Registration has no requirements.
- Licensing has no requirements.
 - The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is not authorized to require the licensing of religious or other private schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.07.020\(10\)](#).
- Approval has no requirements.
 - Private schools that elect to comply with [Alaska Stat. §§14.45.100–130](#) are considered “exempt schools,” i.e. exempt from other state education requirements. However, health and safety provisions apply equally to “exempt” and “non-exempt” private schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.100](#).
 - Non-exempt schools are religious or other private schools not operated in compliance with [Alaska Stat. §14.45.100–130](#) and are not exempt from education laws and regulations. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.030](#).

Curriculum

- Private education satisfies the Alaska compulsory school attendance law if the academic education provided is comparable to that offered by the public schools in the area. [Alaska Stat. §14.30.010\(b\)\(1\)](#).

Health and Safety Requirements

- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has a duty to prescribe by regulation standards to assure healthful and safe conditions in the private schools.

Standards for private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.07.020\(7\)](#).

- Private schools must instruct pupils by means of drills to safely exit school buildings in an emergency. Drills must be conducted once each month during the school term, weather permitting. [Alaska Stat. §14.03.140](#).
- School teachers and school administrative staff members of private schools who in the performance of their occupational duties have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect must immediately report the harm to the Alaska Department of Education. A person required to report child abuse or neglect to the Department is not relieved of the obligation by notifying his supervisor of the harm. If the alleged abuse occurred at a private school and was caused by a school employee, the law enforcement agency will notify the chief administrative officer of the school. In the event the allegation of abuse is against the chief administrative officer or his immediate family, the agency will notify the Commissioner of Education. The notification must set out the factual determination of the law enforcement agency. [Alaska Stat. §47.17.020\(a\)\(2\), \(f\), \(g\)](#).
- Private school officials have the authority to search school lockers as provided in [Alaska Stat. §14.03.105](#), and [§14.45.190](#).

Length of School Year and Days

- Exempt schools must operate on a regular schedule excluding reasonable holidays and vacations during at least 180 days of the year. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.110\(b\)](#).
- Non-exempt private schools must comply with the laws and regulations relating to education. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.030](#). A public school term must include not less than 180 days, unless approved by the Commissioner. [Alaska Stat. §14.03.030](#).

Nursing and Health

- There is no state policy at this time pertaining to nursing and health for private schools.

Professional Development

- There is no state policy at this time pertaining to professional development for private schools.

Public Aid for Private Education

- Constitutional Provisions: The Alaska Constitution provides “No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.” Alaska Constitution, Education, and Welfare, Art. VII, Sec.1.
- Programs for Financial Assistance for Attendance at Private Schools: There is no such program at this time pertaining to financial assistance for attendance at private schools.

Alaska Statutes [AS 14.45.100](#) thru [AS 14.45.200](#).

[Alaska Statute 14.45.200](#) describes a private school as a school that does not receive direct state or federal funding and a religious school as a private school operated by a church or other religious organization that does not receive direct state or federal funding.

Exempt private or religious schools are those that have complied with [AS 14.45.100](#) thru [AS 14.45.200](#). A nonexempt school has not met the requirements of [AS 14.45.100](#) thru [AS 14.45.200](#).

Recordkeeping and Reports

- Both exempt and non-exempt private schools are required to submit a Corporal Punishment Policy to the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. The policy must be written and explain the details of its use (who may administer, what instrument is used, privacy issues). Private schools must gain written consent before administering corporal punishment. 4 AAC 42.200.
- Non-exempt schools must submit regular monthly attendance reports and annual reports to the commissioner in the same manner as teachers and superintendents in the public schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.030](#).
- An exempt school must maintain monthly attendance records for each student enrolled [Alaska Stat. §14.45.110\(b\)](#).
- By October 15 each year, exempt schools must make an annual report to the Commissioner of Education of the number of students in each grade and the school calendar. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.110\(b\)](#).
- Exempt schools must maintain permanent student records reflecting immunizations, physical examinations, standardized testing, academic achievement, and courses taken. The chief administrative officer must certify that the records are being maintained. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.130](#).
- Parents or guardians of children attending exempt schools must file an annual notice of enrollment with the local public school superintendent. The form must be signed by the parent or guardian and chief administrative officer of the exempt school and then submitted to the local public school superintendent by the parent. If the child withdraws, the exempt school must notify the public school superintendent within a reasonable time. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.110\(a\)](#).

Reimbursement for Performing State and Local Functions

- There is no state policy at this time pertaining to reimbursement for performing state and local functions.

Special Education

- There is no state policy at this time pertaining to special education for private schools.

Tax Exemption

- The Alaska Constitution exempts property used exclusively for nonprofit religious, charitable, or educational purposes from taxation. Alaska Constitution, Finance and Taxation Art.IX, Sec. 1.

Teacher Certification

- Teacher certification is required for non-exempt private schools, but not required for exempt private schools. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.100.](#)

Technology

- There is no state policy at this time pertaining to technology for private schools.

Testing

- Exempt schools must administer a nationally standardized test selected by the chief administrative officer of the school to all students enrolled in grades four, six, and eight at least once each school year. The test must measure achievement in English grammar, reading, spelling and mathematics. The school must maintain records of the results and make them available to parents or guardians. Composite test results for the school must be made available annually to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. These results are not public information unless the public school is also required to release identical information. [Alaska Stat. §14.45.120.](#)

Textbooks

- There is no state policy at this time pertaining to textbooks for private schools.

Transportation

- The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides transportation for nonpublic school students who travel comparable distances and the same routes as public school students. [Alaska Stat. §14.09.020.](#)

Resources

Contact Information--State and Federal Departments of Education

- Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Suite 200
801 West 10th Street
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
Phone: (907) 465-2800
Private Schools, Forms Assistance: (907) 465-8724
Fax: (907) 465-4156
TTY: (904) 465-2815
Website: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/>
- U.S. Department of Education, [Alaska](#)

Information and Legislation

1.1. [State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development \(EED\): Forms and Grants](#)

- In “Choose a Section” dropdown menu, select “Private Schools”
- Contents: Guide for Establishing an Exempt, Religious or Other Private School; General Instructions; Affidavit of Compliance; Corporal Punishment Policy; School Calendar; Enrollment Reporting Form for School District

[EED: Alternative Schooling Options](#)

School Choice Programs

Alaska currently does not have an Education Savings Account (ESA) program.