

Kentucky Department of Education

Non-Public or Private School Information

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Kentucky Department of Education
300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-3791
www.education.ky.gov

Welcome! This packet is designed to provide you with information on the laws and regulations that govern nonpublic schools.

Choosing a Nonpublic School

The Kentucky Constitution establishes the right of parents to choose the formal education for their child; therefore, parents may choose to have their child educated in a nonpublic school setting.

Kentucky law requires school attendance for every child between the ages of 6-18 either in a public school or a nonpublic, which may include a private school chosen by the parent or a homeschool. Certified nonpublic schools must complete a minimum school term of at least 170 instructional days with records indicating an overall total of 1,062 instructional hours. The Kentucky Department of Education recommends the same days and hours of instruction for noncertified nonpublic schools.

Nonpublic schools are required to teach subjects that will educate children to be intelligent citizens. Certified nonpublic schools must teach in the English language and should include subjects similar to those taught in public schools, which should include *at least* reading, writing, spelling, grammar, history, mathematics, and civics. The KDE recommends the same minimum courses of study for noncertified nonpublic schools.

Responsibilities of the Nonpublic School

When children attend a nonpublic school, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school to report to the local public school superintendent the names, ages, and residence of all pupils. If a nonpublic school declines to notify the local school board of students in attendance at the nonpublic school, the nonpublic school must notify each parent in writing, and it becomes the duty of the parent to notify the local board of education.

Nonpublic schools are required to keep accurate records of pupil attendance. They are also responsible for issuing and keeping record of issued diplomas.

Available Services for Nonpublic Schools

Nonpublic school students may be eligible to receive services provided by federally funded educational programs. This may include special education services, English language instruction, tutoring services, and others. Each nonpublic school, including registered homeschools, will receive from the local school district each year an "Intent to Participate" form. This option provides services only; no money goes directly to a nonpublic school or individual homeschool. Services are provided by the local school district or an agreed upon third party provider. Services may include speech therapy, tutoring services, migrant services, and others. Services may be provided in the public school, nonpublic school, local library, or other agreed upon location.

Credit Recognition

When students who previously attended a homeschool or non-accredited secondary school (any nonpublic school not certified pursuant to [KRS 156.160\(2\)](#)) desire to enroll in public schools, the local public school district is responsible for proper placement and awarding credits for the nonaccredited nonpublic school.

If the student does not hold a properly certified or accredited transcript, the schools may place the students using one of two methods:

1. Pass a similar examination given to other students receiving credit for the course.
2. Attaining a “C” average in the course by the 12th week of school.

Those courses successfully completed by examination or performance shall be counted toward minimum high school graduation requirements in the local school district.

Certification of Nonpublic Schools

While Kentucky law does not require nonpublic schools to be certified, many nonpublic schools have chosen to participate in an optional certification process. When certified by the state, these nonpublic schools are more likely to be recognized as a valid educational institution by colleges, universities, and future employers.

In Kentucky, diplomas are issued by the Local Education Agency (the local school district) and not the Kentucky Department of Education. When seeking employment or advanced education, students may need to complete the General Education Development (GED) to show equivalence to a locally issued high school diploma.

Seeking Certification

Nonpublic schools may voluntarily comply with the curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and be certified upon application to the board. [704 KAR 3:315](#) includes applicable definitions and outlines the process of certification managed by The Kentucky Non-Public School Commission (KNPSC). The KNPSC is tasked by the KBE with ensuring that requirements are met by nonpublic schools seeking certification and recommending those schools to the KBE for certification. Any nonpublic, parochial, or church schools wishing to pursue certification from the KBE should refer to 704 KAR 3:315 and contact the [KNPSC](#) for additional information.

Preschools should contact the Kentucky Cabinet for Community Based Services [Division of Child Care](#) for information regarding requirements and the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood’s *Kentucky All STARS Program*.

Applicable Statutes

STATUTES	DESCRIPTION
<u>KRS 159.010</u>	Requires compulsory school attendance children ages 6-18
<u>KRS Ann. 159.030(1)(b)</u>	Reporting names of nonpublic school students to local school board
<u>KRS 159.040</u>	Records kept by nonpublic schools
<u>KRS 158.080</u>	Required length of school term and courses to be taught in certified nonpublic schools
<u>KRS Ann. 156.160(2)</u>	Optional certification of nonpublic schools
<u>704 KAR 3:315</u>	Nonpublic school certification process

Contact Information

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