



IOWA

Department of Education

Ryan M. Wise, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Overview

- Effective July 1, 2013, nonpublic schools have the option to be accredited by an independent regional or national nonprofit, nongovernmental agency recognized as a reliable authority concerning the quality of education. The State Board of Education will maintain a list of the approved independent accrediting agencies published on the Iowa Department of Education's website.
- Approved independent accrediting agencies:
 - AdvancED/North Central Accreditation (NCA)
 - American Montessori Society (AMS)
 - Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
 - Christian Schools International (CSI)
 - Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS)
 - National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA)

Instructions for Schools

- Schools newly accredited by an independent accrediting agency, contact Holly Barnes to begin the process of reporting.
- Once schools receive an ID number, schools will have access to web-based reporting to complete the following information **annually**:
 - Provide school address and contact information to the Department of Education
 - Submit enrollment data through one of two options: BEDS Fall Enrollment or Student Reporting of Iowa (SRI)
 - Provide the number of students by resident district.
- Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code Rule 281—12.10, the school will **annually** make the following assurances: It assures
 1. It will comply with all requirements for nonpublic schools that are contained in the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code, with the exception of the general accreditation standards contained in Iowa Code 256.11.
 2. It will enforce laws concerning compulsory attendance.
 3. It will comply with all statutory health and safety laws concerning school facilities, including compliance with state and local fire and building codes.
 4. It will comply with law concerning protecting student health and safety, including compliance with statutes and rules concerning DHS child care licensing, abuse of students, bullying and harassment

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5. It will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws.
 6. To the extent that it requests assistance or services for or on behalf of its students from a local school district or an AEA, it will comply with all requirements imposed on nonpublic schools accredited by the state board of education for the receipt of such assistance or services.
- Collaborate with the local school district to coordinate Transportation, Title I, Title II – Part A, Title III, and Textbook Services.
 - Pursuant to House File 347, by January 1, 2016, each building operating childcare programming must be licensed by the Department of Human Services. Please contact Marsha McBee (MMcbee@dhs.state.ia.us) or 515-281-6832 to begin the licensing process. To learn more about childcare licensing, go to the [Department of Human Services web site](#).
 - Annually inform the Department of accreditation status for the coming school year.

Questions regarding nonpublic schools and independently accredited schools should be directed to Holly Barnes, School Improvement Consultant at holly.barnes@iowa.gov