



Procedures for the Certification of Non-public Schools

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Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

Background

- KRS 156.160 provides that non-public schools may voluntarily comply with the guidelines established by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and be certified by the board.
- 704 KAR 3:315 was passed by the KBE at its December 2024 meeting. It requires that the Kentucky Non-public Schools Commission (KYNPSC) produce three policies that will govern the certification process.
 1. Screening and Selection of Eligible Accrediting Agencies
 2. Recommending Non-public Schools to the KBE for Certification
 3. Recommending Certification Revocation

KYNPSC Policy Manual

Policy 1.00

Screening and Selection of Eligible Acceding Agencies for Non-public Schools

New Accrediting Agency Applicants

- New Accrediting Agency Applicants
 - Prior to being considered for approval, accrediting agencies must:
 - A. Operate with a governing board;
 - B. Be in operation for a minimum of five years;
 - C. Accredite schools in at least two other states;
 - D. Have accredited a minimum of ten schools;
 - E. Accredite traditional, in-person schools.

New Accrediting Agency Applicants, Continued

- New Accrediting Agency Applications
 - Accrediting agencies seeking to be an approved accreditor move through a three-phase review process:
 - Application
 - Candidacy
 - Recommendation
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- The review of applications may take up to three months.
- Applications must be received by August 1 to be considered at the January meeting of the KYNPSC Board of Commissioners.
- Applicants will be notified of their status by March 1.

Rescreening of Approved Accrediting Agencies

- Approved accrediting agencies must be rescreened by the KYNPSC every ten years.
- The accrediting agency will receive notice of rescreening 12 months prior to the deadline for rescreening.
- Supporting materials will be submitted to the KYNPSC Accreditation and Review Committee and discussed at a regularly scheduled meeting of the KYNPSC Board of Commissioners.
- Rescreening materials must be received by October 1 of the tenth year of approval. Materials will be reviewed by the KYNPSC Board of Commissioners at its January meeting. Accreditors will be notified of their status by March 1.

Current List of Approved Accrediting Agencies

- The list of currently approved accrediting agencies is as follows:
 - The KYNPSC, Inc.
 - American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS)
 - Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
 - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) / AdvancEd
 - Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 - Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS)
 - North American Division of Seventh Day Adventists
 - International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA)
 - Association Montessori International (AMI)
 - American Montessori Society (AMS)

Policy 2.00

Kentucky Non-Public School Certification

Certification Procedures for New Schools

- Kentucky non-public schools seeking voluntary certification from the KBE must complete the KYNPSC New School Certification Application.
- The Commission will respond to the application request with a consultation meeting to review the process.
- Prior to being recommended for certification, non-public schools must be accredited by an approved accrediting agency and demonstrate that they are in compliance with:
 - Reporting requirements under KRS 159.030;
 - Record keeping requirements under KRS 159.040;
 - Course requirements under KRS 158.070; and
 - Length of school term requirements under KRS 158.080.

Procedures for Recertification

- Kentucky non-public schools seeking voluntary certification from the KBE must complete the KYNPSC Recertification Application.
- The Commission will respond to the application request with a consultation meeting to review the process.
- Prior to being recommended for certification, non-public schools must be accredited by an approved accrediting agency and demonstrate that they are in compliance with:
 - Reporting requirements under KRS 159.030;
 - Record keeping requirements under KRS 159.040;
 - Course requirements under KRS 158.070; and
 - Length of school term requirements under KRS 158.080.

Policy 3.00

Revocation of Certification

Procedures for Recommending Revocation of Certification

- Under extreme circumstances, it may be necessary for the KYNPSC to recommend the revocation of certification from a non-public school. The procedures are as follows:
 - Non-public schools found to be non-compliant with the statutory requirements for certification will be notified of the compliance concerned and placed on probation. The KBE will be notified of this action.
 - The school will create a corrective action plan under the support and guidance of a KYNPSC Commissioner who will serve as a coordinator.

Revocation Procedures, Continued

- Upon conclusion of the probationary period, the KYNPSC Accreditation Review committee will review the certification and make a recommendation to the KYNPSC Board of Commissioners who will review the deficiencies, corrective action plan, and report from the Commission Coordinator. The KYNPSC Board of Commissioners may take one of three actions:
 1. End the probationary period.
 2. Extend the probationary period.
 3. Recommend the revocation of the school's certification.

The KBE will be notified of the outcome of this decision.

- Non-public schools whose certification is recommended for revocation may appeal to the KYNPSC Board of Commissioners within 30 days.

Thank You