

Nonpublic Alternative High Schools Accreditation

The Act requires the department of education to waive accreditation standards for an accredited nonpublic alternative high school that contracts with a school corporation to provide alternative education services for students who:

- have dropped out of high school
- have been expelled
- have been sent to the nonpublic alternative school due to the students' lack of success in the public school environment to accommodate the nonpublic alternative school's program and student population

Submitted as:

Indiana

[SB 283](#)

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1 Section 1. [*Nonpublic schools.*]

2 (a) It is the policy of the state that the state:

3 (1) recognizes that nonpublic schools provide education to children in [*the state*];

4 (2) has an interest in ensuring that all [*state*] children are well educated in both curricular and
5 extracurricular programs; and

6 (3) should facilitate the transferability of comparable academic credit between appropriate
7 nonpublic schools and state supported educational institutions.

8 (b) The state board shall implement a system of recognition of the educational programs of
9 nonpublic schools to fulfill the policy set forth in subsection (a).

10 (c) The system of recognition described under subsection (b) must:

11 (1) be voluntary in nature with respect to the nonpublic school;

12 (2) recognize the characteristics that distinguish nonpublic schools from public schools; and

13 (3) be a recognition system that is separate from the accreditation standards required of public
14 schools and available to nonpublic schools under [*Insert citation*] of this chapter.

15 (d) This section does not prohibit a nonpublic school from seeking accreditation under section
16 [*Insert citation*] of this chapter.

17 (e) The state board shall adopt rules under [*Insert citation*] to implement this section.

18 (f) The department shall waive accreditation standards for an accredited nonpublic alternative
19 school that enters into a contract with a school corporation to provide alternative education services
20 for students who have:

21 (1) dropped out of high school;

22 (2) been expelled; or

23 (3) been sent to the nonpublic alternative school due to the students' lack of success in the
24 public school environment; to accommodate the nonpublic alternative school's program and student
25 population. A nonpublic alternative school to which this subsection applies is not subject to being
26 placed in a category or designation under [*Insert citation.*] However, the nonpublic alternative
27 school must comply with all state reporting requirements and submit a school improvement growth
28 model on the anniversary date of the nonpublic alternative school's original accreditation.

29

30 Section 2. [*Onsite Education.*]

31 (a) As used in this section, "attend school" means to:

32 (1) physically attend a school in a building owned and operated by a school corporation; or

- 1 (2) be educated onsite at a facility.
- 2 (b) If a student resides in a facility and cannot leave the facility based on a medical decision that
3 the student is a risk to the student or a risk to others, the school corporation in which the facility is
4 located shall provide the student educational services onsite at the facility.
- 5 (c) A student educated onsite at a facility is entitled to the following:
- 6 (1) An educational opportunity comparable to that of a student attending a school operated by
7 the school corporation.
- 8 (2) To receive the same level of educational services from the school corporation in which the
9 facility is located as received by a student who physically attends school in a school operated by the
10 school corporation. Unless provided otherwise in a student's individualized education program,
11 educational services must include at least the following:
- 12 (A) An instructional day that meets the requirements of *[Insert citation.]*
- 13 (B) A school year with a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) student instructional days
14 under *[Insert citation.]*
- 15 (C) Educationally appropriate textbooks and other materials offered to the student at the
16 same cost assessed to a student attending a school operated by the school corporation.
- 17 (D) Licensed teachers who are qualified to teach the grade level of the student and the subject
18 matter of the student's curriculum.

19

20 Section 3. *[Tuition under Legal Settlements.]*

- 21 (a) This section applies to a school corporation that enrolls a student who has legal settlement in
22 another school corporation for the purpose of the student receiving services from an accredited
23 nonpublic alternative high school described in Section 1(f).
- 24 (b) A school corporation is entitled to receive state tuition support for a student described in
25 subsection (a) in an amount equal to:
- 26 (1) the amount received by the school corporation in which the student is enrolled for ADM
27 purposes; or
- 28 (2) the amount received by the school corporation in which the student has legal settlement;
29 whichever is greater.