

Attending Non-Public Schools in Alabama

(Act #2014-245)

Act 2014-245, SB38, amends Sections 16-1-11, 16-28-7, 16-46-1, 16-42-2, 16-46-6, 16-46-4, 16-46-5, 16-46-6, 16-46-7, 16-46-8, 16-46-9, and 16-46-10, Code of Alabama 1975, to clarify that nonpublic schools, including private, church, parochial, and religious schools, offering educational instructions in grades L-12, as well as home-schooled students, are not subject to regulation by the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, or the State Superintendent of Education and may not be regulated by the state or any political subdivision of the state. The act requires nonpublic schools to comply with attendance laws and perform criminal history background checks on employees, prohibits public two-year or four-year institutions of higher education from denying admittance to or otherwise discriminating against a qualified student based upon his or her attendance at a nonpublic school, and prohibits the State Department of Education from denying certification to a person based upon his or her employment by an elementary or secondary nonpublic school. The act also provides that all nonpublic schools that are members of the Alabama High School Athletic Association must be in compliance with the constitution and bylaws established by the association member schools.

General Information for Non-Public School Private, Church, Parochial, Religious, On-Site, On-line, Private Tutor, and Home Study Programs

General Information Regarding Transferring to a Public School from a Non-Accredited School

Contact:

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Coordinator of Prevention and Support Services
(205) 342-2749

or

Mrs. Jackie Hudgins
Director of Accountability
(205) 342-2739

Act No. 2014-245 stipulates that each nonpublic school, including private, church, parochial, and religious schools, offering educational instruction in grades K-12, as well as home-schooling entities, shall comply with:

- Chapter 28, Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to school attendance;
- Chapter 22A, Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Child Protection Act of 1999;
- Chapter 7, Title 38, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to criminal history background checks on persons responsible for children, the elderly, and the disabled.

All private schools or institutions of any kind having a school in connection therewith, except church schools as defined in Section 16-28-1, shall register annually on or before October 10 with the Department of Education and shall report on uniform blanks furnished by the Department of Education, giving such statistics as relate to the number of pupils, the number of instructors, enrollment, attendance, course of study, length of term, cost of tuition, funds, value of property, and the general condition of the school. (Ala. Code §16-1-11 as revised by Act No. 2014-245.)

Note: Online private school registration forms will be available from August 1 through October 10 annually on the ALSDE website at <http://www.alsde.edu>.

Ala. Code §16-28-7

1. At the end of the fifth (5th) day from opening of the public school, each private school and each private tutor (but not church school) shall report to the superintendent of the district in which the student resides, the names and addresses of all children of mandatory age that are enrolled.
2. Provide a weekly report to the local superintendent with the names and addresses of all enrolled students that were absent without being excused (or whose absence was not satisfactorily explained by the parent or legal guardian).
3. Provide a weekly report to the local superintendent with the names and addresses of all newly enrolled students of mandatory age.
4. The enrollment and attendance of a child in a church school shall be filed with the superintendent of the district in which the student resides.
5. The form shall be countersigned by the administrator of the church school and returned to the public school superintendent by the parent or guardian.
6. Should the student cease to be enrolled at the church school, the parent or legal guardian shall notify the local public school superintendent that the child is no longer in attendance at a church school.

TRANSFERS FROM NON-ACCREDITED OR HOME SCHOOLS

4.80

To allow transfer of credits and/or determine the appropriate class/grade placement of a student transferring to this system from a non-accredited or home school, the following shall be implemented:

- I. Credit for all elective courses shall be accepted without validation.
- II. Uncontested credit for core courses of English, mathematics, science and social studies shall be transferred as follows:
 - A. Using all available records and nationally standardized tests, if available, the principal or his/her designee shall determine the appropriate placement and then notify the student and the parent/guardian.
 - B. Upon agreement by the parent/guardian, the student shall be assigned to the class and/or grade agreed upon.
 - C. For any initial core course the student completes successfully in this system, he/she shall be permitted to transfer in that subject area all previous credits earned at a non-accredited or home school. (Example: Successful completion of eleventh grade English in this system would allow the student to transfer ninth and tenth grade English if completed successfully at the non-accredited or home school).
- III. Contested credit for core courses shall be transferred as follows:

If the parent/guardian disagrees with the placement decision, the principal or designee shall supervise the administration of the school's most recent semester examination or other appropriate assessment for each prerequisite to the core course in which the parent/guardian is requesting enrollment. For each test passed, the student shall be placed in the next level core course and credit for the prerequisite course(s) shall be transferred.
- IV. In the event of the existence of controversial records/transcripts and/or the absence of any official or notarized records/transcripts, the student shall take placement tests consisting of the system school's previous semester tests for core courses.

All transfer students must pass state-required examinations and meet all other requirements for graduation. Except in case of bona fide change of residence or other circumstances equally valid for making an exception, a student is not to be graduated from high school unless he has been in continuous attendance therein during the entire high school year immediately preceding the date of graduation.

REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA
16-8-8, 16-28-3, 16-28-6, AAC §290-3-1-.05(2) C 7 and 290-3-1-.06 (10) c

HISTORY:

ADOPTED: MARCH 9, 1992
REVISED: MARCH 8, 1999; MAY 13, 2002; APRIL 8, 2013
FORMERLY: IDCCE, JBCDB

HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE PROGRAMS

By providing this information, neither the Tuscaloosa County School System nor its employees are making any representation as to the quality of educational services that may be provided by any entity, organization or school identified herein.

| NAME OF SCHOOL | CONTACT SITE | OPEN ENROLLMENT | ACCREDITATION |
|--|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| Northstar Academy | http://www.northstar-academy.org/ | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| Indiana University High School | https://iuhighschool.iu.edu/ | YES | Advanced, NCA CASI |
| University of Missouri – MU Online High School | http://mizzouk12online.missouri.edu/ | YES | Advanced, NCA CASI |
| James Madison High School | http://www.jmhs.com/ | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| University of Nebraska High School | http://highschool.nebraska.edu/ | YES | Advanced, NCA CASI |
| Liberty University High School | http://www.liberty.edu/onlineacademy/ | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| National High School | http://www.nationalhighschool.com/ | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| Laurel Springs High School | http://laurelsprings.com/high-school/ | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| The University of Mississippi Independent Study High School | http://www.outreach.olemiss.edu/hsathome/index.html | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| American High School | http://americanonlinehigh.com/ | YES | Advanced, SACS CASI |
| Brigham Young University Independent Study High School Program | https://is.byu.edu/site/programs/HighSchoolProgram.cfm | YES | Advanced, NWAC |

HOME SCHOOLING PROGRAMS

Updated August 22, 2023

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"How did the following home schools made this list?" The Tuscaloosa County School System has received over five (5) enrollment forms from the following home schools.

Everest Academy

Deb Spradlin, Administrator
1035 Jenkins Road
Hayden, AL 35079
(205) 433-9828

FCA Home Educators

Jane Bell, Administrator
901 Second Avenue NE
Fayette, AL 35555
(205) 932-5051

Grace Christian

Shannon Gray, Administrator
2112 Hargrove Road East
Anniston, AL 35405
(205) 462-1144

Honor School of Alabama

PO Box 851061
Mobile, AL 36685
(334) 384-4619

McCulley Hill Christian

Edward and Martha Weed, Administrators
2165 Bishop Ridge
West Blockton, AL 35184
(205) 938-2101

Omnia Classical School

Valerie Powell Robertson, Administrator
14611 Old Greensboro Road
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 452-9851

University Church Christian Academy

Donna Tanski, Administrator
1200 Julia Tutwiler Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
(205) 553-3001

Valley Creek Academy

Jennifer Dobson, Director
3253 Virginia Drive
Hueytown, AL 35023
(205) 491-3330

Victory Christian

Deborah Safford, Administrator
PO Box 70814
Tuscaloosa, AL 35407
(205) 657-1403

Zoe Home School

Paula Wildgrube, Administrator
PO Box 1552
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
(205) 243-9594

July 1, 2014

Academic year 20__ - 20__

[illegible]

Date _____

OR

Private Tutor Certificate Number

Academic year 20__ - 20__

Church School Student Enrollment Form

I hereby certify that, _____, residing at

name

address

is of legal school age and enrolled and attending

Church school name/address

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Nonpublic School Official

Date

Title

Beginning date: ____ / ____ /20____
Academic year 20____ - 20____

Ending Date: ____ / ____ /20____

Alabama Code §16-28-7 states should the child cease attendance at a church school, the parent, guardian, or other person in charge or control of the child shall by prior consent at the time of enrollment direct the church school to notify the local public school superintendent or his or her agent that the child no longer is in attendance at a church school.