

The following states (and districts/territories) require some form of accreditation or approval for schools to participate in at least one of their school choice programs, based on the provided document:

State	Accreditation/Approval Requirement(s)	Notes
AL	State or regional (may be within 3 years or pending)	<p>Schools that want to participate in Alabama's CHOOSE Act of 2024 as education service providers must be accredited or in the process of obtaining accreditation.</p> <p>This requirement applies to both public K-12 schools and private schools (including church, parochial, or religious schools) in the state. Specifically, accreditation must come from one of the six regional accrediting agencies, the National Council for Private School Accreditation, Cognia, the American Association of Christian Schools, the Alabama Christian Education Association, the Alabama Independent School Association, or one of their partner accrediting agencies.</p> <p>ACCS=NCPSA</p>
AR	State (within four years for ESA)	<p>Schools that want to participate in Arkansas's Children's Educational Freedom Account Program (also known as the Education Freedom Accounts or EFA program) as private schools must meet accreditation requirements. Specifically, they need to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already meet the accreditation standards set by the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (or its successor), or another recognized accrediting association; or • Be an associate member of, or have applied for accreditation from, one of these entities. <p>If a school is in the process of obtaining accreditation, it must achieve full accreditation within four years of becoming eligible to participate. Failure to do so results in ineligibility until accreditation is obtained and approved by the state board.</p> <p>This applies to private schools; public schools and other service providers may have separate eligibility criteria, but the program primarily funds private education options.</p> <p>ACCS=STATE RECOGNITION</p>

AZ State, regional, or national

Must be accredited by a recognized body or adhere to state standards.

No, schools that want to participate in Florida's Family Empowerment Scholarship - Educational Options (FES-EO) program as eligible private schools do not need to be accredited.

leg.state.fl.us +2However, they must be approved by the Florida Department of Education to participate, which involves registering their intent, complying with general private school laws (e.g., maintaining a physical location in Florida for in-person instruction, health and safety standards), meeting teacher qualification standards (bachelor's degree, 3 years of experience, or special skills), conducting background checks on staff with direct student contact, demonstrating fiscal soundness (via operation for at least 3 years or a surety bond/letter of credit), administering required student assessments, and fulfilling other obligations outlined in state statutes such as s. 1002.394 and s. 1002.421, F.S.

FL State

Public schools can also serve as options for FES-EO students in certain capacities (e.g., for part-time services), but with separate processes.

No, schools that want to participate in Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship Program (FTC) as eligible private schools do not need to be accredited.

Yes, schools that want to participate in Georgia's Promise Scholarship Act (an Education Savings Account or ESA program established in 2024) as participating private schools must be accredited or in the process of receiving accreditation from an approved accrediting agency.

GA State or regional (or in-process)

ACCS=GAPSAC

Yes, schools that want to participate in Iowa's Students First Education Savings Account program as nonpublic schools must be accredited and located in Iowa to allow ESA participants to attend and receive funds for tuition and fees.

IA State

ACCS=State Recognition

ID

No, schools that want to participate in Idaho's Parental Choice Tax Credit program as qualified nonpublic schools (i.e., to have their tuition and fees eligible for reimbursement through the tax credit) do not need to be accredited.

IN State, regional, or national

Yes, schools that want to participate in Indiana's Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program as "qualified schools" (eligible to receive ESA funds for tuition and fees) must be accredited by the Indiana State Board of Education or a recognized national or regional accrediting agency.

ACCS=State Recognition

KS State or regional

No, schools that want to participate in Louisiana's Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (GATOR) Scholarship Program as participating nonpublic schools do not strictly need to be accredited.

LA State

However, they must be approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to qualify, which includes options for non-accredited schools. Specifically, a nonpublic school can participate if it meets one of these criteria:

It is BESE-approved as an accredited school, Louisiana Montessori accredited school, or Louisiana Montessori provisionally accredited school; or

It provides evidence of working toward accreditation while meeting all other nonpublic school approval criteria; or

It is approved as a non-accredited school after a successful LDOE evaluation of its academic and safety standards.

MD State

No, schools that want to participate in Missouri's Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program (also known as MOScholars) as qualified schools do not strictly need to be accredited if they qualify as Family Paced Education (FPE) schools (a form of homeschooling under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 167.013), which have separate certification requirements focused on curriculum plans, record-keeping, and background checks for residents.

MO State

However, all other schools (public, charter, private, or virtual) must be fully accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or one of the state's approved nationally recognized education accrediting associations (e.g., Association of Christian Schools International, Cognia, Independent Schools Association of the Central States) to qualify.

ACCS=State Recognition

No, schools that want to participate in Mississippi's Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Program (an Education Scholarship Account or ESA program) as eligible schools do not strictly need to be accredited.

However, they must meet the statutory definition of an "eligible school," which includes:

MS State or regional (or pending)

- A state-accredited special purpose school;
- A state-accredited nonpublic school; or
- A nonpublic school located in Mississippi that enrolls a participating student and provides services for that student's disability, special education needs, or Individualized Education Program (IEP).

No, schools that want to participate in Montana's Special Needs Equal Opportunity Education Savings Account Program (also known as the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act or ESA program) as qualified schools do not need to be accredited.

However, they must meet the statutory definition of a "qualified school," which applies to nonpublic schools (including private, parochial, church, religious, or home schools) serving grades K–12 and includes:

MT State or regional; meets state nonpublic school requirements

- Complying with applicable local health and safety regulations;
- Holding a valid occupancy permit if required by the municipality;
- Not discriminating on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, marital status, color, age, physical disability, national origin, or mental disability (unless based on reasonable grounds under state law);
- Requiring criminal history background checks for employees with unsupervised access to children, in line with federal standards;
- Meeting Montana's general requirements for nonpublic schools under MCA § 20-5-109, which involve maintaining attendance and immunization records, providing minimum instructional hours (per MCA §§ 20-1-301 and 20-1-302),

operating in a compliant building, and offering an organized course of study in subjects required for public schools (e.g., language arts, math, science, social studies, health, arts, and career education per MCA § 20-7-111).

		No, schools that want to participate in North Carolina's Opportunity Scholarship program as eligible nonpublic schools do not need to be accredited.
NC	State, regional, or national (for some programs; optional for others)	No, schools that want to participate in North Carolina's Personal Education Student Accounts for Children with Disabilities (also known as the Education Student Accounts or ESA+ program) as eligible nonpublic schools do not need to be accredited.
NH	State or national	No, schools that want to participate in New Hampshire's Education Freedom Account (EFA) program as education service providers (specifically private or nonpublic schools) do not need to be accredited.
NV	State	
OH	State	
OK	State; State Board or Approved Association	Yes, schools that want to participate in Oklahoma's Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships (a tax credit scholarship program, also known as the Oklahoma Tax Credit Scholarship Program) as qualified schools must be accredited by the State Board of Education or an accrediting association approved by the Board pursuant to Section 3-104 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. ACCS=OPSAC
PA	State or regional	
PR	Territory or regional	
RI	State	
SC	State or regional	No, schools that want to participate in South Carolina's Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) Program as education service providers (including independent schools) do not need to be accredited.
SD	State or regional	
TN	State or regional	Yes, schools that want to participate in Tennessee's Do schools need to be accredited to participate in Tennessee Education

Freedom Scholarship Act (also known as the Education Freedom Scholarship Program or EFS) as participating nonpublic schools do need to be accredited.

They must be physically located in Tennessee, qualify as a Category I, II, or III nonpublic school under State Board of Education Rule 0520-07-02, and register annually with the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) to receive EFS funds (via an online form, including attestations for compliance and background check policies).

ACCS=Category II, NCPSA=Category III

TX State, regional, independent approved agency

Yes, schools that want to participate in Texas's Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) program—also referred to as the Education Savings Account (ESA) program—as approved private schools must be accredited by an organization recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), or another accreditor approved by the Commissioner of Education.

ACCS=TEPSAC

UT State

No, schools that want to participate in Utah's Fits All Scholarship Program as private schools do not need to be accredited.

No, schools that want to participate in Utah's Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship Program as eligible private schools do not need to be accredited.

VA State or regional, or national

VT State

WI State or regional

WV Register with state or county board approval

No, schools that want to participate in West Virginia's Hope Scholarship Program as participating nonpublic schools (or other education service providers) do not need to be accredited.

WY State

No, schools that want to participate in Wyoming's Steamboat Legacy Scholarship Act (the expanded Education Savings Account or ESA program, effective for the 2025–2026 school year) as qualified schools or education service providers (ESPs) do not need to be accredited.

Note: Idaho and Missouri do not require accreditation for their listed programs (alternatives may apply in Idaho).