

**CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL
BY THE WAREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 1 states that:

“The School Committees shall approve a private school when satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that in the public schools in the same town; but shall not withhold such approval on account of religious teaching, and, in order to protect children from the hazards of traffic and promote their safety, cities and towns may appropriate money for conveying pupils to and from any schools approved under this section.”

When a private school that is proposed to open within the borders of the Town of Wareham, the School Committee will approve or not approve the private school based on documentation provided by the applicant, including but not limited to categories listed below. School Committee approval solely indicates that it is satisfied that the instruction in all the studies required by law equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in the progress made therein, that of the public schools in the Town of Wareham. Upon approval, the proposed school will need to comply with all other requirements of statute and regulation prior to opening. The Committee will consider the review of the documentation and recommendations by the School Business Manager, Administrator of Student Services, and Director of Curriculum & Instruction prior to voting on the approval request.

1. Population to be served

- Admissions criteria; documentation of school’s enrollment

2. Physical Plant/Safety

A. The school shows evidence of current

- Elevator Inspection
- Fire Inspection
- Certificate of Occupancy
- Compliance with lead paint poisoning prevention (for children under 6 years old)
- Compliance with other applicable federal and state health and safety standards (e.g. PCB, asbestos inspections, handicap accessibility)

B. The site, plant and equipment adequately support the program and are operated to ensure the safety and health of the students.

3. Curriculum

A. The curriculum offered is “equivalent” to that offered in the local school system generally and, specifically the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core State Standards, in terms of the following instructional areas.

- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- History and Social Science
- English/Language Arts
- Foreign Language
- The Arts
- Physical Education & Health

4. Educational Materials

Textbooks and/or individual instructional materials (including computer and other technology) are adequate.

5. School Staff

Assessment of “thoroughness and efficiency” of instruction based on:

- Teacher qualifications
- Adequate student/teacher ratio
- Regular evaluation of staff
- CORI background checks

6. Administration

School possesses clearly defined table of organization that facilitates its objectives.

7. Records

- A. An adequate system of student records (e.g., attendance, health, discipline, progress reports) is fairly maintained
- B. The student records are kept in compliance with state statutes and regulations as applicable.

8. Student Services

The Special Education services provided for all students are balanced and comprehensive (e.g., recreation programs, health care procedures, guidance and counseling programs, discipline policy).

9. Financial Support

- A. Evidence of financial solvency is provided and indicates that the school can adequately sustain the educational program.
- B. Documentation of the school’s legal status; if the school is incorporated, copies of the articles of incorporation and certification of tax exempt status, if any.

10. Student Learning Time

Length of school year and hours of instruction in each subject is equal to that of the public school.

11. Student Performance Assessment

Methods for periodic evaluation of students’ skills, competencies and knowledge are clearly defined.

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 28, 2009

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