



Overview

- Effective July 1, 2013, nonpublic schools have the option to be accredited by an independent regional or national nonprofit, nongovernmental agency recognized as a reliable authority concerning the quality of education. The State Board of Education will maintain a list of the approved independent accrediting agencies published on the Iowa Department of Education's website.
- Approved independent accrediting agencies:
 - AdvancED/North Central Accreditation (NCA)
 - American Montessori Society (AMS)
 - Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
 - Christian Schools International (CSI)
 - Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS)
 - National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA)

Instructions for Schools

- Schools newly accredited by an independent accrediting agency, contact Holly Barnes to begin the process of reporting.
- Once schools receive an ID number, schools will have access to web-based reporting to complete the following information **annually**:
 - Provide school address and contact information to the Department of Education
 - Submit enrollment data through one of two options: BEDS Fall Enrollment or Student Reporting of Iowa (SRI)
 - Provide the number of students by resident district.
- Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code Rule 281—12.10, the school will **annually** make the following assurances: It assures
 1. It will comply with all requirements for nonpublic schools that are contained in the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Code, with the exception of the general accreditation standards contained in Iowa Code 256.11.
 2. It will enforce laws concerning compulsory attendance.
 3. It will comply with all statutory health and safety laws concerning school facilities, including compliance with state and local fire and building codes.
 4. It will comply with law concerning protecting student health and safety, including compliance with statutes and rules concerning DHS child care licensing, abuse of students, bullying and harassment
 5. It will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws.
 6. To the extent that it requests assistance or services for or on behalf of its students from a local school district or an AEA, it will comply with all requirements imposed on nonpublic schools accredited by the state board of education for the receipt of such assistance or services.
- Collaborate with the local school district to coordinate Transportation, Title I, Title II – Part A, Title III, and Textbook Services.
- Pursuant to House File 347, by January 1, 2016, each building operating childcare programming must be licensed by the Department of Human Services. Please contact

Marsha McBee (MMcbee@dhs.state.ia.us) or 515-281-6832 to begin the licensing process. To learn more about childcare licensing, go to the [Department of Human Services web site](#).

- Annually inform the Department of accreditation status for the coming school year.

Enrollment Information

The process for Independently Accredited schools in Iowa to report enrollment data to the Department is described below. Schools new to Iowa reporting will follow all steps. Schools with prior experience to Fall BEDS and Certified Enrollment may skip to Step 4.

1. Follow the link below for information on establishing an A & A Account in order to access Iowa Education Portal. <https://www.educateiowa.gov/data-reporting/iowa-education-portal-information>.
2. Access the Iowa Education Portal <https://portal.ed.iowa.gov/iowalandingpage/Landing.aspx>. Online training for the Portal is available at the bottom of the page.
3. Once the school administrator has access to the Portal, request the applications Fall BEDS Update and NP Certified Enrollment Update.
4. Information about the components of Fall BEDS is available at this link. <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/basic-educational-data-survey-beds/2014/09/fall-beds-reference-fy15>

Those sections of Fall BEDS required to be completed by independently accredited schools are:

- Immigrants
 - LEP Student Count
 - New LEP Student Identification
 - Student Enrollment
- Complete all sections of NP Certified Enrollment.

For questions regarding access to the Portal and establishing an A & A account contact portal@iowa.gov or call 515-725-2040.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast Program and Afterschool Snack Program

Schools recognized as accredited by the Iowa Department of Education are eligible to participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and Afterschool Snack Program. The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program are federally funded programs which assist schools in providing nutritious lunches to children at reasonable prices. In addition to financial assistance, the program provides donated foods to help reduce lunch program costs. The United States Department of Agriculture is responsible for overseeing the program nationally. For additional information on the USDA programs please visit Iowa's Bureau of Nutrition and Health Service's and USDA web sites listed below.

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program>

https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/school-breakfast-program#Program_Information

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/child-nutrition-programs>

Please contact Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant, at patti.harding@iowa.gov or 515-281-4754 for more information.

Questions regarding nonpublic schools and independently accredited schools should be directed to Holly Barnes, School Improvement Consultant at holly.barnes@iowa.gov