



ARE PRIVATE SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE?

Private schools benefit from multiple layers of accountability, making them just as accountable as public schools. In fact, we'd give them a "Triple A" rating for accountability.

FACT: PRIVATE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE VOUCHER PROGRAM ARE FULLY ACCOUNTABLE TO TAXPAYERS



FOUR LAYERS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

It is important for Utahns to know and understand the high level of accountability that will exist for private schools participating in the voucher program. These layers of accountability come on top of the market driven accountability measures that private schools currently face, which public schools do not. It may even be fair to say that under the new voucher law, participating private schools are more accountable than their public school counterparts. "By statute and administrative rules set by the State Board of Education, private schools participating in the voucher program are fully accountable to taxpayers." Here's how the accountability works:

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- A) Private schools must be audited by an independent certified public accountant and submit an audit report to the state school board before they accept voucher students and every four years afterwards.
- B) Audit will determine that voucher monies are properly tracked, spent on educational expenses, and reconciled with student records. Procedures for this accounting must be in place before the school enrolls voucher students.
- C) Working capital must constitute at least 80% of average private school expenditures per quarter.

EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- A) Private schools must disclose credentials of teachers, special education costs and services available, and the accreditation status of the school to voucher families before they enroll the voucher student.
- B) Teachers must have bachelor's degrees or some other form of expertise in the subjects in which they teach.
- C) Private schools that enroll voucher students cannot operate out of a residence and must enroll more than 40 students total.
- D) Private schools that enroll voucher students may not be a state-licensed residential treatment facility

ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- A) Private schools must assess voucher student achievement through national standardized testing (independently graded) and report scores to parents and those who request them.
- B) Private schools must make alternate forms of assessment available to students with disabilities or limited English proficiency.

LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- A) Private schools may not discriminate in admissions based on race, ethnicity, or gender.
- B) Private schools must meet state health and safety codes.