

Beverly Public Schools Criteria for Approval of Non-Public Schools

Under state law, any private school in Beverly must obtain the approval of the Beverly School Committee according to criteria established by the Beverly School Committee. This approval process is defined in the school district policy entitled "Non-Public Schools – Approvals and Relations". The School Committee needs to be assured that the private school provides instruction in all the studies required by law that at least equals in thoroughness and efficiency and in the progress made therein that of our own school system. To obtain such assurance, the Beverly Public Schools has established criteria which are based upon an October 2007 advisory from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Any applicant for School Committee approval must demonstrate compliance with the following criteria:

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1. Population Served
 - a. The school shows evidence of current:
 - i. Criteria for admissions
 - ii. Documentation of school's enrollment
2. Physical Plant / Safety
 - a. The school shows evidence of current:
 - i. Certificate of Occupancy
 - ii. Fire inspection
 - iii. Safety inspection
 - iv. Elevator inspection, if applicable
 - v. Compliance with lead paint poisoning prevention (for children under 6 years old)
 - vi. Compliance with other applicable federal and state health and safety standards (e.g., PCB, asbestos inspections, handicap accessibility)
 - vii. Copies of valid safety and health inspection certificates
 - 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 Beverly Public Schools generally and, specifically, in terms of the following instructional areas:
 - i. Mathematics
 - ii. Science and Technology
 - iii. History and Social Science
 - iv. English Language Arts
 - v. Foreign Languages
 - vi. Arts
 - vii. Physical Education
4. Educational Materials
 - a. Textbooks and individual instructional materials, including computers and other technology, are adequate.
5. School Staff
 - a. The instruction provided is "thorough and efficient" based on:
 - i. Teacher qualifications
 - ii. Adequate student/teacher ratio
 - iii. Regular evaluation of staff

6. Administration
 - a. The school has a principal / headmaster with administrative expertise sufficient to lead the school.
 - b. The school has a clearly defined organization that facilitates its objectives.
 - c. The school principal / headmaster reviews criminal offender record information (CORI) of current and prospective employees and volunteers, as required by law
7. Records
 - a. The school maintains an adequate system of student records (e.g., attendance, health, discipline, progress reports).
 - b. The student records are kept in a secure and organized manner that is consistent with federal and state student record laws to the extent applicable.
 - c. The school maintains and timely provides transcripts in response to requests of students and former students in accordance with G.L. c. 71, § 34A.
 - d. The school is prepared efficiently to transfer transcripts of all students and former students to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and/or other schools should it cease operation, in accordance with G.L. c. 71, § 34G.
8. Student Services
 - a. The school provides adequate pupil personnel services for all students (e.g., health care procedures, guidance and counseling programs, discipline policy).
9. Financial Support
 - a. The school provides evidence of financial solvency and resources to sustain the educational program.
 - b. The school presents documentation of its legal status. These may include copies of the articles of incorporation and the certification of tax exempt status.
10. Student Learning Time
 - a. The school provides adequate student learning time (length of school year and school day) and hours of instruction in each subject.
11. Student Performance Assessment
 - a. The school periodically evaluates students' skills, competencies, and knowledge and documents their progress.