

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

To participate in the CEO Act, schools must meet the following requirements:

1. Accreditation and Testing Options:

Schools must either:

- a. Be accredited by a recognized regional, national, or religious accreditation body and conduct nationally norm-referenced academic testing starting no later than Grade 4, or
- b. Administer nationally norm-referenced academic tests biennially, beginning no later than Grade 4 (exceptions apply for students with individualized education programs).

2. Financial Accountability:

- Schools must undergo an annual independent financial audit, paid for by the school.

3. Conflict of Interest Restrictions:

- Schools are prohibited from receiving ESA funds for students whose parents are employees, contractors, corporate officers, or owners of the school.

Protections for Faith-Based and Private Schools

1. Religious Instruction:

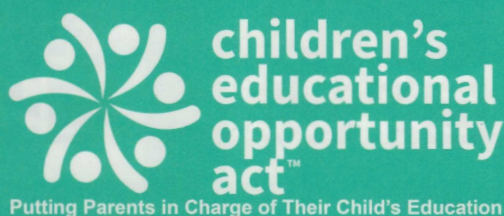
- The CEO Act expressly prohibits the state from interfering with religious instruction in participating schools.

2. Freedom from Offensive Curriculum Mandates:

- Parents and guardians retain the right to opt their children out of any curriculum they find morally objectionable or inconsistent with their beliefs, whether in public or private schools.

3. No Enrollment Caps:

- State and local governments are prohibited from limiting the number of private or home-based schools or restricting student enrollment at these institutions. This comprehensive framework ensures that faith-based and private schools can operate with independence while providing families with expanded educational opportunities.



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