

USNEI

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<http://www.ed.gov/international/usnei/us/accred-school.doc>

Accreditation and Quality Assurance: School-Level Accreditation

There are no specific federal laws or regulations governing the recognition of accrediting agencies that accredit primary and secondary schools, and the U.S. Department of Education has no oversight role with respect to school accreditation. Some states have laws requiring or encouraging accreditation for public schools and state-chartered private schools.

Schools that possess state approval and, where it is required, accreditation recognized at the state level are generally considered to be recognized schools in the U.S. education system. In addition, private schools that are accredited by other associations recognized by the federal Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State are also considered to be recognized.

FEDERAL RESOURCES

While the federal government has no control over school-level education, selected agencies administer programs or activities that pertain to primary and secondary schools.

[Department of Defense Education Activity \(DODEA\)](#) provides information and links to overseas U.S. public schools operated by the federal government to serve the children of U.S. personnel stationed abroad.

[Office of Overseas Schools](#) is the Department of State's agency assisting international private schools offering U.S.-style education. It includes links to recognized schools and associations.

[Study in the States](#) is the Department of Homeland Security's resource to help schools and programs in the United States, as well as international students, navigate the international student life cycle. The website includes important information from federal agencies that play a role in implementing student visa and exchange visitor programs.

STATE RESOURCES

States approve or license, and in some cases accredit, public and private schools operating within their jurisdictions.

[State Contacts](#) provides links to the websites of state-level departments of education, where information on school accreditation can be found.

[State Regulation of Private and Home Schools](#) provides information on state-level laws and regulations – including those pertaining to accreditation – for private and home schools.