

WAC 180-90-112 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Private school" means a nonpublic school or nonpublic school district approved by the state board of education pursuant to RCW 28A.305.130, and chapter 28A.195 RCW and in accordance with the minimum standards for approval as prescribed in this chapter.

(2)(a) "Reasonable health requirements" means those standards contained in chapter 246-366 WAC as adopted by the state board of health, and other applicable health requirements for private schools set by federal, state, or local health authorities.

(b) "Reasonable fire safety requirements" means those standards adopted by the state fire marshal pursuant to chapter 43.44 RCW.

(3)(a) "Minor deviation" means a variance from the standards established by these regulations which represents little or no threat to the health or safety of students and school personnel, and which does not impact the ability of the school to provide an educational program which is in substantial compliance with the minimum standards set forth in WAC 180-90-160, and which, therefore, does not preclude the granting of full approval.

(b) "Major deviation" means a variance from the standards established by these regulations which represents little or no threat to the health or safety of students and school personnel but may impact the ability of the school to provide an educational program which substantially complies with the minimum standards set forth in WAC 180-90-160, but is not so serious as to constitute an unacceptable deviation.

(c) "Unacceptable deviation" means a variance from the standards established by these regulations which either:

(i) Constitutes a threat to the health or safety of students or school personnel; or

(ii) Demonstrates that the school is not capable of providing an educational program which substantially complies with the minimum standards set forth in WAC 180-90-160.

(4) "Total instructional hour offering" means those hours when students are provided the opportunity to engage in educational activity planned by and under the direction of school staff, as directed by the administration and board of directors, inclusive of intermissions for class changes, recess and teacher/parent-guardian conferences which are planned and scheduled by the approved private school for the purpose of discussing students' educational needs for progress, and exclusive of time actually spent for meals.

(5) "Washington state certificated teacher, administrator, or superintendent" or "certified person" in this chapter means an educator holding a residency, professional, initial, continuing, or standard certificate under WAC 181-79A-142(1); or a first peoples' language, culture, and oral tribal traditions certificate under WAC 181-78A-700.

(6)(a) "Non-Washington state certificated teacher" means a person who does not hold a residency, professional, initial, continuing, or standard certificate under WAC 181-79A-142(1); or a first peoples' language, culture, and oral tribal traditions certificate under WAC 181-78A-700 but who has:

(i) A K-12 teaching certificate from a nationally accredited preparation program, other than Washington state, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; or

(ii) A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in the subject matter to be taught or in a field closely related to the subject matter to be taught; or

(iii) A minimum of one calendar year of experience in a specialized field. For purposes of this subsection the term "specialized field" means a specialized area of the curriculum where skill or talent is applied and where entry into an occupation in such field generally does not require a baccalaureate degree including, but not limited to, the fields of art, drama, dance, music, physical education, and career and technical or occupational education.

(b) "Exceptional case" means that a circumstance exists within a private school in which:

(i) The educational program offered by the private school will be significantly improved with the employment of a non-Washington state certificated teacher. Each teacher not holding a valid Washington state certificate shall have experience or academic preparation appropriate to K-12 instruction and consistent with the school's mission. Such experience or academic preparation shall be consistent with the provisions of (c) of this subsection; and

(ii) The school employs at least one Washington state certified teacher, administrator, or superintendent who provides general supervision to any non-Washington state certificated teacher. The school will annually report to the state board of education the academic preparations and experience of each non-Washington state certificated teacher providing k-12 instruction in an addendum to the certificate of compliance as provided in WAC 180-90-160; and

(iii) The non-Washington state certificated teacher of the private school, employed pursuant to this section, has been verified by the private school, as meeting the age, good moral character, and personal fitness requirements of WAC 181-79A-150 (1) and (2), and has not had his or her teacher's certificate revoked by any state or foreign country consistent with WAC 181-79A-155 (5) (a).

(c) "Unusual competence": As applied to an exceptional case wherein the educational program as specified in RCW 28A.195.010 and WAC 180-90-160(7) will be significantly improved with the employment of a non-Washington state certificated teacher as defined in (a) of this subsection.

(d) "General supervision" means that a Washington state certificated teacher, administrator, or superintendent shall be generally available at the school site to observe and advise the teacher employed under provision of (c) of this subsection and shall evaluate pursuant to policies of the private school.

(7) "Business day" means a weekday, excluding weekends, state holidays, and state closures unless otherwise specified.

(8) "Filing" means the process by which a document is officially delivered to a state board of education staff member. Unless otherwise provided, filing shall be accomplished by:

(a) Hand delivery of the document to the specified state board of education staff member;

(b) By sending the document by email and first class mail to the specified state board of education email address and state board of education's office address on its website; or

(c) By submitting an initial or annual application and certification of compliance as required in WAC 180-90-130 or 180-90-160.

Documents required to be filed shall be deemed filed upon actual receipt during office hours at the office of the state board of education.

- (9) "Executive director" means the executive director of the state board of education.
- (10) "SBE private school officer" means the person designated by the executive director to administer the state board of education's private school program.
- (11) "SBE representative" means the person designated by the executive director to administer the state board of education's private school program or another SBE staff person, and may be represented by an assistant attorney general.
- (12) "Hearing officer" means the person designated by the executive director, in consultation with the SBE executive committee, to conduct a brief administrative proceeding or a summary suspension hearing on the loss of private school approval.
- (13) "Service" is the process by which a document is officially delivered to a party. Unless otherwise provided, service upon a party shall be accomplished by:
- (a) Hand delivery of the document to the party; or
 - (b) By sending the document by both email, and by either certified mail or first class mail to the party's last known address.
- Service is deemed complete upon hand delivery of the document or upon the date the document is emailed and deposited in the mail.
- (14) "Loss of approval" means either a suspension or rescission of a private school's approval by the state board of education. Suspension is for a set period of time or until specified conditions are met and rescission is permanent until a new application for approval is granted.
- (15) "School" means and includes each building, facility, and location, including online program components, where any portions of a kindergarten and grades one through 12 program of education and related activities are conducted for two or more children by or in behalf of any private school or private institution subject to approval by the state board of education pursuant to RCW 28A.305.130, chapter 28A.195 RCW, and this chapter.
- (16) "Residential private school," per RCW 26.44.210, means a nonpublic school or nonpublic school district subject to approval by the state board of education pursuant to RCW 28A.305.011 and chapter 28A.195 RCW that provides sleeping and living facilities or residential accommodations for enrolled students.
- (17) "Summary suspension" means the immediate, temporary suspension of a private school's approval in an administrative procedure.
- (18) "Threat to health or safety" means the physical facilities, personnel, or practices of the school do not meet reasonable health requirements or reasonable fire safety requirements; or failure to meet the requirements or legal obligations that private schools are subject to, including those enumerated in this chapter or in chapter 28A.195 RCW.
- (19) "School or district administrator" means administrative or executive authority of private schools or private school districts. The terms "head of school," "principal," or "superintendent" may also be used in rule or application materials to refer to the administrative or executive authority of the private school or private school district.
- (20) "Review committee" means a committee of three to five SBE members identified by the SBE chair who will conduct reviews of initial decisions of brief adjudicative proceedings pursuant to WAC 180-90-143.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.195.040. WSR 24-06-044, § 180-90-112, filed 2/29/24, effective 3/31/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.195.040, 28A.195.010, and 28A.150.220. WSR 22-07-048, § 180-90-112, filed 3/14/22, effective 4/14/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.195.010, 28A.195.030, and 28A.195.040. WSR 18-24-090, § 180-90-112, filed 12/3/18, effective 1/3/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.195.040. WSR 15-24-108, § 180-90-112, filed 12/1/15, effective 1/1/16. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.305 RCW, RCW 28A.150.220, 28A.230.090, 28A.310.020, 28A.210.160, and 28A.195.040. WSR 10-23-104, § 180-90-112, filed 11/16/10, effective 12/17/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.195.040. WSR 03-04-053, § 180-90-112, filed 1/29/03, effective 3/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.02.240. WSR 85-24-056 (Order 23-85), § 180-90-112, filed 12/2/85.]