

Mapping Tennessee Education

Non-public schools

According to state law, non-public schools in Tennessee include private schools, church-related schools, and home schools. The State Board of Education classifies non-public schools into five categories based primarily on the level of oversight by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) or by various private accrediting agencies or membership associations. Teachers at non-public schools must hold proper credentials according to the school's category.

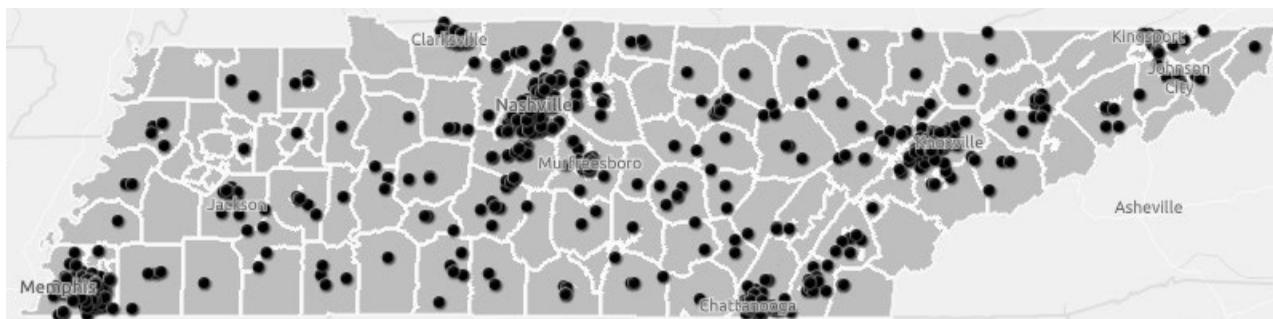
Exhibit 1: Non-public school categories

Category	Description	Requirements for teachers
1	Schools approved by TDOE	Must meet same licensure and certification standards as public school teachers
2	Schools approved by an accrediting agency that has been approved by TDOE	Must meet licensure and certification standards set by accrediting agencies
3	Schools that are regionally accredited	Must meet licensure certification standards set by accrediting agencies
4	Schools that are church-related, defined by law as those operated by a denominational, parochial, or other church organization and which meet the statutory accrediting requirements	Must satisfy organization requirements
5	Schools acknowledged for operation by TDOE Such schools may be in the process of completing requirements set by the state or the relevant accrediting agency when acknowledged for operation by TDOE. The only accreditation requirement set by the state for these schools is that a standardized test for grades 3-12 must be administered.	Must hold a baccalaureate degree but not required to have a teaching certificate

Source: Tennessee Department of Education.

As of February 2021, 615 non-public schools operate in Tennessee, serving over 153,000 students in grades PreK-12. See OREA's Mapping Tennessee Education for an interactive map of non-public schools and more at tncot.cc/mappingeducation.

Exhibit 2: Map of Tennessee non-public schools



Source: Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. Mapping Tennessee Education tncot.cc/mappingeducation.