

# **Websterville Baptist Church and Christian School**

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Websterville Baptist Christian School, and educational ministry of Websterville Baptist Church, operates in the State of Vermont as a Recognized Independent School. The following statements from the Vermont Statutes are provided for your information.

## 16 V.S.A. 165c Recognized Independent Schools

Upon filing an enrollment notice, a recognized independent school may provide elementary or secondary education in Vermont. The enrollment notice shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and shall be filed with the commissioner no earlier than three months before the beginning of the school year for the public schools in the town in which the applicant proposed to locate.

- (1) The enrollment notice shall contain the following information and assurances:
  - (A) a statement that the school will be in session an amount of time substantially equivalent to that required for public schools.
  - (B) a detailed description or outline of the minimum course of study for each grade level the school offers, and how the annual assessment of each pupil will be performed:
  - (C) assurances that:
    - (i) the school will prepare and maintain attendance records for each pupil enrolled or regularly attending classes:
    - (ii) at least once each year the school will assess each pupils progress, and will maintain records of that assessment, and present the result of that assessment to each students parent or guardian:
    - (iii) The schools educational program will include the minimum course of study set forth in section 906 of this title
    - (iv) The school will have teachers and materials sufficient to carry out the school's educational program.
    - (v) The schools will meet such state and federal laws and regulations concerning its physical facilities and health and safety matters as are applicable to recognized independent schools.
- (2) If the commissioner has information that creates significant doubt about whether the school would be able to meet the requirements set forth above, the commissioner may call a hearing. At the hearing, the school shall establish that it can meet the requirements for recognized independent schools. Failure to do so shall result in a finding by the commissioner that the school must take specified action to come into compliance within the specified time frame or the children enrolled must attend another recognized independent school, approved independent or public school, or home study program, or be declared truant unless absent with legal excuse.
- (3) A recognized independent school shall provide to each student's parent or guardian a copy of its currently filed statement of objectives and a copy of this

section. The copy shall be provided when the pupil enrolls, or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes later. Failure to comply with this subsection may create a permissible inference of false advertising in violation of section 2005 of Title 13.

- (4) A recognized independent school shall renew its enrollment notice annually. An independent school shall be recognized for a period not to exceed five years by the commissioner without need for filing an annual enrollment notice if:
  - (A) it is recognized by an organization approved by the state board for the purpose of recognizing such school.
  - (B) It is accredited by a private, state, or regional agency approved by the state board for accrediting purposes. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the commissioner from initiating a hearing under this section
- (5) If the commissioner has information that creates significant doubt about whether the school, once in operation, is meeting the requirements for recognized independent schools, the commissioner may call a hearing. At the hearing, the school shall establish that it has met the requirements for recognized independent schools. Failure to do so shall result in a finding by the commissioner that:
  - (A) the school may not be in operation for the remainder of the school year and that the children are truant unless absent with legal excuse or enrolled in an approved public or independent school or a home study program:
  - (B) the school must take specified action to come into compliance within a specified time frame or the school will not be permitted to operate for the remainder of the school year.
- (6) Each recognized independent school shall provide to the commissioner on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year the names and addresses of its enrolled pupils. Within seven days of the termination of a pupil's enrollment, the recognized independent school shall notify the commissioner of the name and address of the pupil. The commissioner shall forthwith notify the appropriate school officials designated in section 1126 of this title.
- (7) After the filing of the enrollment notice or at a hearing, if the school is unable to comply with any specific requirements due to its deep religious conviction shared by an organized group, the commissioner may waive such requirements if he or she determines that the educational purposes of this subsection are being or will be substantially met.