

Church-Related Umbrella School (Category IV)- 20240711_134326-Meeting Recording

July 11, 2024, 5:43PM

7m 10s

● **Sandy Couch** started transcription.



Sandy Couch 0:09

Church-Related Umbrella School (Category 4.) This presentation is to assist families who want to learn more about church related umbrella schools in Tennessee. My name is Sandy Couch and I am the non-public and home school coordinator for the Division of Choice with the Tennessee Department of Education.

The Tennessee Department of Education is committed to setting all students on a path to success. The division of Choice supports the best for all plan of the department by ensuring all Tennessee students have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

This presentation will answer key questions about church related umbrella schools. What is a church related umbrella school and how is it different than independent home school? Where do I find information on church related umbrella schools.

Where do I find a list of state approved umbrella schools?

What are the requirements to register a child for a church related umbrella school?

Who do I notify if my child is enrolled in a church related umbrella school?

What is a church related umbrella school and how is it different than independent home school?

Tennessee State law at Tennessee Code annotated 49-6-3050 defines home school as a school conducted by or directed by a parent or parents or a legal guardian or guardians for their own children. Tennessee offers two ways to home school your Child, Independent, Home, school and church related umbrella school or home school umbrella.

What is a church related school Tennessee code annotated section 49-50-801 defines a church related school as a school operated by denominational, parochial or other bona fide church organizations that are required to meet the standards of

accreditation or membership of specific membership agencies listed in the law. Church related category four schools are exempt from certain regulations regarding faculty textbooks and curriculum. They are permitted to operate a home school umbrella program which allows parents or legal guardians to participate as a teacher in the church related school under the supervision of the school's director.

Where can I find information on church related umbrella schools?

You can find information on church related home school umbrellas by visiting the department's home school webpage.

Select home School under the school choice on the left side of the page.

Scroll to the church related umbrella school section to review the requirements. Here you will find an overview of church related umbrella schools and information on where to find a list of approved church related umbrella schools.

A list of approved nonpublic schools is housed on the department's nonpublic school's webpage.

On the non-public school's webpage, scroll to the nonpublic school's directory and click on the approved list of a nonpublic school to download the Excel spreadsheet. The first column of the Excel list is home school umbrella.

If a school is listed as yes option or yes, only then they offer a home school umbrella option. Only schools approved as a category four church related school may offer a home school umbrella.

What are the requirements to register a child for a church related umbrella school?

A parent may enroll their child in a church related school and participate as a parent teacher under the supervision of the school's director for the purposes of home schooling their own children, under Tennessee code annotated 49-6-3050(a)(3) parent teachers are subject to the requirements established by the church related school for home school teachers.

Parent teachers whose students are in grades nine through 12, must possess at least a high school diploma or a high school equivalency credential approved by the State Board of Education as a nonpublic school. The church related umbrella school is responsible for student record keeping, attendance reporting and testing requirements.

Who do I notify my child is enrolled in the church related umbrella school? An intent to homeschool form is not required for students enrolled in the church related umbrella school or private school.

Instead, upon withdrawal from a public school, parents or legal guardians may be required to provide proof of enrollment in the church related school to the local school district. Home school students enrolled in a church related umbrella school are subject to mandatory attendance under Tennessee Code annotated 49-6-3007.

Additional resources and information. The Home school webpage contains additional information that may be helpful to home school families.

In addition to the church related umbrella school information, scroll to at the bottom of the webpage to the section title, resources and information download the frequently asked questions for home school, which contains responses to general questions about home schooling.

You may also access information about meningococcal disease and other helpful links related to topics of interest.

If you have questions, please email home.school@TN.Gov or call Sandy Couch 865-978-4854.

Thank you.

● **Sandy Couch** stopped transcription.